



BOARD OF EDUCATION

COAST MOUNTAINS SCHOOL DISTRICT 82

REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2011

5:00 P.M.

ADDENDUM

9.1.6 BCSTA Report (Trustee R. Raj) (Pages 1-2)

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL REPORT BY RAYMOND RAJ PROVINCIAL COUNCILLOR

The Provincial Council Meeting started on Friday, October 21, 2011 with a special presentation from Hugh Finlayson and Jaquie Griffiths of BCPSEA. In their presentation, Mr. Finlayson and Ms. Griffiths reported that the negotiations with BCTF started in March and there has been no major progress. They told us that there would be some action by next week to:

- deal with essential service
- look at constructive alternatives
- have to make some choices

The week is over, and we are not where we were expected to be.

On Saturday, the agenda was full. This was the first time in BCSTA Provincial Council history that a Minister of Education addressed the Provincial Council for almost an hour and answered questions for over half an hour. Minister Abbott spoke about Bill 27 and 28. New Regulations on College of Teachers was needed because the old one was not working. He said there would be an announcement next week to win the public confidence back.

- make teacher regulation system more sustainable and durable
- support a growth of mature, respectful relationship among education partners
- establish a framework to advance teaching excellence
- strong stable system to meet 21st century learners
- world has changed and continues to change – the way we educate students needs to continually adapt
- every learner will realize their full potential

British Columbia's response is flexible, adaptable excellence in education.

1. Personalized Learning – student centred learning
2. Quality Teaching and Learning – enhanced professional development, better preparation and support. Teachers as professional guides.
3. Flexibility and Choice
4. High Standards – effective interventions to identify and support struggling students
5. LEARNING EMPOWERED BY TECHNOLOGY – smarter use of technology in digital world. All students will have internet connectivity to support technology

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6. During the question period, most of the questions were related to "The Funding Formula." When it was my opportunity, I did not ask a question, but made the following statement, "When Stikine got 200 students and Surrey got 70,000 students then it is clear that you cannot use the same funding formula on both districts. It is important to have a funding formula, but it is very important to have a funding formula for rural, remote and northern British Columbia and also have considerations, with fairness, for special needs students in these areas. School Districts should be funded as per needs and not as per average or number of students". Minister Abbott said that he knows this and he is working on it.

There were six motions to deal with and all of them were passed:

- 1) Bylaw amendment for Kootenay Boundary Branch;
- 2) Bylaw amendment for North West Branch;
- 3) Budget for technology;
- 4) Reinstatement of GST/PST;
- 5) Ensuring choice about technology solutions;
- 6) Return of Pacific Carbon Tax.

For questions or clarifications on any items within this report, please contact me at raymond.raj@cmsd.bc.ca.