

DATE: January 30, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
FROM: Board of Education
SUBJECT: BCSTA MOTIONS

BCSTA MOTION #1

Moved By: Trustee Wilson

Seconded By: Trustee Neufeld

That the Board of Education approves that the following motion be submitted to the BCSTA Annual General Meeting:

Whereas: The BC School Act currently defines conflict of interest primarily in pecuniary terms, creating challenges for trustees to interpret and apply the rules effectively.

Whereas: Trustees seeking advice have encountered ambiguity regarding conflicts arising from union affiliations under the PSEC bargaining mandate.

Whereas: The overly rigid adherence to conflict of interest advice has resulted in an increasing number of boards making court applications for remedies because they can not achieve quorum due to the number of conflict trustees on their board, thus hampering the effective functioning of elected trustees and limiting the pool of potential trustee candidates.

Whereas: Trustees are seeking clarity to ensure adherence to ethical standards and to avoid any potential misunderstandings or misinterpretations regarding conflict of interest.

Be it Resolved: The BCSTA shall establish a special committee, comprising trustees, legal experts, and relevant stakeholders, to develop clear and comprehensive guidelines on conflict of interest for trustees, addressing the challenges associated with union affiliations under the PSEC bargaining mandate.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BCSTA MOTION #2

Moved By: Trustee Wilson

Seconded By: Trustee Dickinson

That the Board of Education approves that the following motion be submitted to the BCSTA Annual General Meeting:

Whereas: Certain areas of the province are experiencing rapid growth, leading to a significant increase in student enrollment.

Whereas: The reliance on portables as a temporary solution is proving inadequate, as they are funded from districts budgets, encroaching on crucial education funds, and often lack essential facilities, such as bathrooms, and face challenges in providing proper heating and cooling.

Whereas: The current system, which requires schools to be over capacity before the approval for a new school commences, followed by a lengthy construction period, is causing delays in addressing the urgent need for adequate learning environments.

Resolved: The BCSTA shall advocate for a comprehensive review and reform of the school construction approval process, urging the province to develop a new plan or formula that allows for more proactive and timely responses to the growing demands for school infrastructure.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BCSTA MOTION #3

Moved By: Trustee Wilson

Seconded By: Trustee Rai

That the Board of Education approves that the following motion be submitted to the BCSTA Annual General Meeting:

Whereas: British Columbia has the highest cost of living among the provinces, making it challenging for teachers and support staff to afford living in the region, and hindering the attraction and retention of qualified educators.

Whereas: BC is experiencing areas of rapid growth and thus rapid student enrolment numbers.

Whereas: The education sector in BC is experiencing a significant shortage of teachers and support staff, adversely affecting the quality of education and student outcomes.

Be it Resolved: The BCSTA work with BCPSEA to look at more innovative ways to attract and retain teachers and support staff to seek employment in BC. With a goal of creating more incentives and opportunities to make the education sector more attractive to potential teaching professionals.

Due to conflict of interest, Trustee Dickinson abstained from voting.

CARRIED

BCSTA MOTION #4

Moved By: Trustee Fox

Seconded By: Trustee Wilson

That the Board of Education approves that the following motion be submitted to the BCSTA Annual General Meeting:

Whereas, the Provincial Government has passed Bill 44, and

Whereas, this will have a significant impact on student enrolment in our District, and

Whereas, our present school capacity is beyond maximum in our fastest growing areas of the Township of Langley,

I move, That the BCSTA advocate that the funding formula for capital be changed to proactively fund based on enrolment projects due to the growth in students in fast growing districts and the new added pressure of the passing of Bill 44 which will result in student enrolments increasing at higher rate beyond current school capacities which are based on the current practice of waiting until students arrive.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BCSTA MOTION #5

Moved By: Trustee Dickinson

Seconded By: Trustee Fox

That the Board of Education approves that the following motion be submitted to the BCSTA Annual General Meeting:

Whereas;

Unprecedented immigration numbers have been permitted by the federal government, many of which include school aged students who do not speak English or French.

Whereas;

Currently ELL students require vast amounts of supports, not only for language, but often counselling and often other supports.

Be it Resolved;

That the BCSTA advocate to the federal government for targeted funding to support language acquisition to be provided to the province to be distributed to school districts for increased language supports for new immigrant/refugee students who are ELL.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
