



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7:00pm
West Vancouver School Board Office

Present: C. Broady, Chair; N. Brown, S. Donahue, P. Dorsman, Trustees; C. Kennedy, Superintendent of Schools; D. Eberwein, Deputy Superintendent of Schools; J. Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer; S. Nosek, Director of Instruction; L. Tomlinson, Director of Instruction; D. Nelson, Director of Instruction; K. Martin, Director of Human Resources; W. Hickey, Director of Facilities

Absent: D. Stevenson, Vice Chair

A. CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Broady called the meeting to order and acknowledged that we are on the traditional lands of the Squamish Nation and said we appreciate our relationship with them as we move education forward in our district. She then apologized on behalf of Vice Chair Stevenson, who was unable to attend as a result of unforeseen travel issues.

The Chair encouraged everyone to try to attend the screening on Friday night of Longshot: The Brian Upson Story, a documentary by film students at Rockridge Secondary, and said it was wonderful that this local story was being brought to life.

B. BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

"Learning Character at BICS" – Bowen Island Community School

Principal Scott Slater, Vice Principal Laura Magrath, teacher Katie Cooke, and students Journey and Livia

Principal Slater introduced his staff members and students, and told trustees that the BICS school goal is built around learning character. The motto ROAR (responsibility, openness, ambition, resilience) captures the four character traits upon which they are focusing.

Primary teacher Katie Cooke spoke to trustees about the special place BICS holds at the heart of the close-knit community on Bowen Island and how physically it sits close to a network of trails. Her passion for outdoor learning led to her to introduce nature journaling to her primary students. Every Wednesday, rain or shine, her students will go to their selected "sit spots" and observe, then journal, whether by writing or drawing about their observations. Students have the same spot over the course of the year, so they are aware of the changes taking place. They

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then return to class and research non-fiction sources to answer any questions they may have. Ms Cooke said this has been powerful and successful practice that is a good balance of indoor and outdoor learning, and is meaningful for both students and teachers. Grade 3 student Journey told trustees that nature is very important to her, and that having the opportunity to work in her sit spot, surrounded by nature, helps her to focus. She said she loves nature journaling so much, she will continue to do it even after the school year ends.

Vice Principal Magrath reported that BICS students were asked for input about patterns of behaviour in the school and ways to change them. The installation of solar panels last year has been a valuable educational opportunity, as well as helping with energy costs. Grade 6 student Livia told trustees about the Phantom Power Group, made up of students in grades 5 – 7, that works to find ways that BICS can reduce overall energy consumption. Students investigated power use, and discovered that devices left in standby mode, such as projectors and monitors, consume 236 watts per hour. As well, desk lamps, Christmas lights, and stereos left on when rooms were not in use also drew power unnecessarily. The biggest consumers however, were the laptop and iPad carts, which draw 30 watts per hour each. The group has launched a campaign to remind staff and students to turn off and unplug devices when not in use. As well, they are going to research how to make the laptop and iPad carts more efficient and still ensure that devices are charged and usable. Principal Slater thanked the Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer for their open-mindedness regarding the solar panel project, and the Director of Facilities for the information and installation.

“Fete d’hiver: A Celebration of French Canadian Culture” – Ecole Pauline Johnson

Principal Tara Zielinski, Vice Principal Chris Parslow, and students Tia, Hannah, Talia, and Petra

Principal Zielinski introduced Vice Principal Parslow and students, and explained that while Ecole Pauline Johnson studies French culture around the world, one of the most exciting traditions is the French Canadian Carnaval. Grade 5 students Tia and Hannah shared the history of Carnaval with trustees in both French and English, beginning with the first one held in 1894. The character of Bonhomme was introduced in 1955, when the modern Carnaval was started again, after being interrupted by the First and Second World Wars, and the Depression. Grade 7 students Talia, Jessica, and Petra, told trustees about some of the events that are part of the modern Carnaval, including the Red Bull Crashed Ice skating competition, Snowga (yoga in the snow), and the Grand Prix Trois Skis. They also shared some of the activities connected to Carnaval that take place at Ecole Pauline Johnson, including the Voyageur Crepe breakfast, a visit from the Maple Man, a cultural Quebecois dance with Vazzy, and a school outing to the West Van Ice Arena to go skating. Students then answered questions from trustees and handed out Carnaval treats.

C. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#1278	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Agenda of the Regular Meeting February 21, 2017 be adopted as amended.
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Carried.

D. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 minutes)

No questions from the gallery.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting January 17, 2017

#1279	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting January 17, 2017 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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- General Record February 21, 2017

#1280	<u>MOTION</u> THAT the General Record February 21, 2017 be approved.	<u>Carried.</u>
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F. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No business arising.

G. BOARD BUSINESS

1. Superintendent's Report

Chris Kennedy, Superintendent

The Superintendent gave trustees a brief update on a number of items:

Revised Curriculum

The Superintendent reminded trustees that the K-9 curriculum is now fully implemented and the focus is now on the grad program for grades 10-12. A meeting was held in late January, to allow secondary principals from across Metro Vancouver to examine and discuss the opportunities and challenges of the 10-12 revised curriculum. All three secondary schools in West Vancouver will implement the revised grade 10 curriculum for the 2017-2018 school year, with full implementation in grades 10-12 in September 2018. The ministry is currently revising the Language Arts and Social Studies curriculum, particularly at grades 11 and 12, based on feedback and concerns regarding the loss of core standards and survey courses. The revisions should be complete by the summer.

Additional per-pupil funding announced last weekend is a one-time support that will, in part, provide learning resources for the new revised curriculum.

Communication Student Learning

A successful meeting was held in January with parents and administrators to discuss issues around core competencies, reporting templates, digital tools, and student self-reflections.

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PACs will gather parent feedback by March and teacher feedback will be collected after the end of Term 2. Director of Instruction Lynne Tomlinson and District Principal Sandra-Lynn Shortall will review the feedback and use it as the basis for any template or administrative procedure adjustments. The aim is to have any changes completed by June, so that everything is ready for the new school year in the fall.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)

District Administrator Maureen Lee and district counsellor Todd Lund have been driving this work in our district and helped to establish SOGI staff leads in all schools, who act as main contacts between the school and district. Where a staff member has not come forward, the administrator is taking the role. Training has been provided for all staff leads, presentations have been given at staff meetings, and SOGI-inclusive curriculum is supported. As well, the grant monies from the ARC Foundation have been used for release time for SOGI lead training, pro-d and library resources, and to support a district entry in the Vancouver Pride Parade in August. Finally, all school sites and the district board office now have designated universal washrooms available for staff and students.

Technology Updates

Use of Google Classroom and Fresh Grade continues to increase across the district, as does that of Math IXL, which is now the district standard for math support in grades K – 5. The district recently launched Science Techbook for grades K – 8, which is the first district-wide digital core resource. Training is ongoing. West Vancouver Schools is also one of the first districts in Canada to be doing cutting-edge work with technology and autism. We have recently launched Milo and Robots for Autism, linking Student Support Services and IT. These robots will help students on the autism spectrum with social skills and awareness.

Coding and Robotics in the Classroom

The current main entry point for coding is Coding Quest at grades six and seven, and there has been very strong uptake under the leadership of Nathan Blackburn and Sean Nosek. The current coding and robotics programs continue to attract high interest, and include Ignite Your Passion for grades six and seven; grade eight after school classes; and the very popular academy for grades nine – 12. There has been some money released recently by the government, and it will be used to support the continued growth of robotics and coding for the 2017-2018 school year, with a particular focus on elementary schools.

Self-Regulation and Executive Function

West Vancouver Schools was one of the “First Wave SR Schools” in 2011, guided by Stuart Shanker’s principles, Zones of Regulation, and Mind Up. The district Self-Regulation team is still active in all schools, and we are now moving to the “Next Wave”, which focuses on self-regulation and executive function. Eleven schools, in partnership with Coquitlam School District, are focussed on exploring how cognition and motivation connect with the self-regulation and executive function strategies used in the classroom. District Administrator Lee and District Principal Shortall will be presenting at the upcoming liaison meeting between the Board of Education and WVAA. As well, there will be professional development offered in September and October.

SWIS Support Programs for 2016

The SWIS program is supported by federal funding, and the service continues to be contracted to the North Shore Multicultural Society (NSMCS). This resource is for funded / new immigrant families in our schools. During the last 10 years, there has been a shift in the languages, reflecting a shift in demographics. Initially, Korean and Farsi services were in demand; now the majority of families are Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking.

In 2016, SWIS served almost 350 adults – 146 Farsi-speaking and 203 Chinese-speaking. Support included meetings regarding topics such as report cards, homework, new curriculum, and district programs like summer learning. As well, SWIS assisted with 91 parent consultations in schools. The same year, SWIS served 59 youth, with initiatives such as Back to School, Girls Group, Leadership Camp, and an art-based communication group called 'Expression!' 98.8% of participants rated the information they received as "helpful or very helpful" when surveyed.

Main services are offered in Mandarin, Cantonese, Farsi, and English. The Superintendent said NSMCS is doing an outstanding job running the SWIS program, and their deep resources mean that support in many other languages, such as Russian, is available upon request. Administrators connect families with SWIS upon registration and initial assistance is often about daily living skills, such as public transit or how to get a library card.

Trustee Brown reported that as a trustee, she is concerned about what she hears at Metro ELL meetings regarding funding cuts to the SWIS program. While not a pressing concern for us, many districts are relying heavily on SWIS workers to assist in settling refugee families in particular. As a result, Burnaby School District #41 is putting forth a resolution at the upcoming BCSTA AGM regarding funding for adequate support services for new immigrant families. Trustee Brown asked that the motion be included in full in the minutes:

Submitted by: SD 41 (Burnaby)

Be it resolved:

That the BCSTA urge the B.C. Ministry of Education to request the federal government to provide sufficient funding to enable boards of education to provide adequate support services for immigrant families settling in communities.

This motion is needed because budgets in the areas of Settlement Workers in Schools and Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada continue to decrease despite the rising number of immigrants and despite the record influx of Syrian Refugees recently received and further projected.

Chair Broady reported that trustees have been encouraged to reach out to their MPs on this issue. She said she will write a letter of thanks to the NSMCS for the excellent service they have provided. No motion required. As well, she will reach out to MP Pamela Goldsmith-Jones on the matter.

Priority Measures Funding

With the new funding announcement today, the presentation information is slightly out of date. All positions at elementary and secondary have been filled apart from a 1.0 FTE Teacher-librarian position. That means increased time for ELL, LST, and Teacher-librarians, and filled positions for elementary learning support and counselling. Discussions are

ongoing with the union regarding how to best spend any remaining monies and/or fill any remaining positions.

Trustee Brown said thank you for the hard work and teamwork shown by both HR staff and the union. Director of HR Kim Martin said that the relationship with the WVTA helped to facilitate the process and made quick posting and securing good candidates possible.

2. Fine Arts Update

Lynne Tomlinson, Director of Instruction

Director Tomlinson began by introducing Rockridge musical director Alisa Douglas and Guitar 11 students Fiona and Sandra, who sang and played acoustic guitar for trustees. After the performance, Director Tomlinson explained to trustees the exciting shift in vision in the fine arts in West Vancouver during the last five years. From the traditional to new cross-disciplinary initiatives, West Vancouver offers varied and robust fine arts opportunities for students.

Traditionally, the fine arts were music, art, drama, and dance, but they have now expanded to include film making, digital art and music, animation, and maker spaces. The fine arts are integrated into many aspects of the curriculum, including outdoor education, electronics, Aboriginal Education, workshop with professional clinicians, and collaborative cross-disciplinary projects. In our district, we offer a rich variety of programs that are designed to incorporate the fine arts while enhancing innovative practices. The result is new opportunities for all learners, ones which increase student engagement and achievement.

Director Tomlinson reviewed the well-established programs in West Vancouver Schools. Our band programs have close to 400 students at both elementary and secondary, and the choir programs continue to grow. More than 700 students participate in elementary choir, and almost 230 students participate in various choir programs at the three secondary schools. At Rockridge and Sentinel, the AP Art classes continue to produce high-quality work, and the ArtWest 45 program at WVSS is growing in popularity and gives students unique opportunities they would not get elsewhere. The drama and theatre departments at each secondary school stage productions each year, involving more than 300 students, and all schools in the district put on musicals and concerts each year. Eight elementary schools are working with Artists in Residence, a long-standing district practice.

The Director noted that these school-based programs continue each year because of the ability of the instructors/teachers to inspire students and keep them coming back. She said our participation numbers are outstanding for a small school district. She noted that the hiring by principals has been exceptional and said we are very lucky to have such fantastic people working with our students.

In addition to school-based programs and classes, there are number of district fine arts programs and events. The successful Honour Choir program involves 115 students from schools across the district, and along with concerts and competitions, includes retreats with professional clinicians. The 'Sing Project' involves more than 700 elementary students coming together as a large choir. Theatre45 gives students in grades 6 and 7 the opportunity to participate in theatre/drama program after school, culminating in a performance. This program runs in the spring and rotates between families of schools. The Series45 program has been running for five years, and gives all students in grades 4 – 7 the opportunity to see

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high-quality performances in a professional theatre, and students attend two shows each year at the Kay Meek Centre. Workshops with the VSO are held with elementary and secondary groups each year. Each spring, the visual and performing arts in our district are celebrated during the Lighthouse Festival, held at the Kay Meek Centre, West Van Community Centre, and Gleneagles Community Centre. Students perform and visual art is on display for a week in late April each year.

Despite the many programs and opportunities already running, we are constantly looking at new trends and opportunities for students. Director Tomlinson reviewed some of them, including digital media and art, film-making using drones, mixed media with app support, 3D printing, tech and design, textiles and fashion design, post-secondary collaborations and performances, and cross-district collaborative projects, such as the one recently between Hartley Bay and ArtWest 45 students at WVSS. These areas give students who may not have previously been interested in the traditional fine arts an opportunity to express themselves and broaden horizons in innovative and engaging ways.

These new opportunities have also broadened horizons for teachers, who increasingly collaborate across disciplines in order to enhance student learning. There are also occasions to connect with the broader community, be it through after school programs such as the Goh Ballet at Gleneagles Ch'axáy, which draws a number of private school students, or environmental and conservation projects.

Director Tomlinson concluded by thanking trustees for their support of the arts, and said that they are increasingly important as we move beyond the traditional to a wide range of visual and performing arts. The Superintendent noted that these departments will likely be part of the conversation regarding new funding.

Trustee Donahue thanked Director Tomlinson for her hard work supporting these initiatives and opportunities in our district. The Director thanked her, but noted that it is the teachers who inspire students, believe in high standards, and encourage professional performance opportunities and portfolio creation.

3. 2017/18 Annual Facilities Grant spending plan

Julia Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer

The Secretary Treasurer noted that the AFG plan was being submitted earlier than usual because of spring break. She then passed the floor to the Director of Facilities, to review the plan to spend the \$1.2million grant.

The Director of Facilities briefly reviewed the two biggest projects on the plan: converting our aging phone system to voice over internet protocol (VOIP); and key scan access to our buildings. The Director explained that for key scan access, keys will be replaced by cards, with access points strategically located near alarm keypads. At secondary, six or eight doors will have access, and two or three at elementary. There are policies around when buildings can be accessed and by whom, but overall access will improve. The Superintendent noted that this will have a positive impact on teaching staff, allowing additional flexibility around access to buildings for rehearsals, team practices etc. The Secretary Treasurer said that though the initial outlay will be large, the scheme will save money in the long term, as cards are easier and cheaper to replace than lost keys, which also incur re-keying costs for numerous locks as well. The VOIP project is detailed in the Finance and Facilities Committee

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meeting minutes. Other smaller projects were briefly reviewed, and the Director of Facilities said that his department was trying to get a head start on some of the work, in order to make the busy summer period easier.

#1281

MOTION THAT the 2017/18 Annual Facilities Grant expenditure plan be approved and submitted to the Ministry of Education.

Carried.

4. BCSTA Provincial Council

Pieter Dorsman, Trustee

Trustee Dorsman reported that Teresa Rezansoff is stepping down and a new BCSTA president will be elected in April. As well, there will be a new Minister of Education after the provincial election in May, regardless of the election results. He reported that trustees were encouraged to engage in the upcoming provincial election process and urged to contact their local MLA candidates to make sure that public education is being discussed during the campaign. They were asked to use the hashtag #BCEDKEY in any social media posts. Among the presenters at provincial council was a seniors' advocate, who spoke to trustees about how seniors can benefit from public education, something which Trustee Dorsman said he found particularly useful. He also briefly reviewed some of the motions discussed during provincial council and said that he is always impressed by the consensus decisions that are reached, despite the strong opinions expressed. He did note that the difference between metro and rural districts' concerns was evident.

5. BCSTA AGM

Carolyn Broady, Board Chair

The Chair confirmed that West Vancouver Board of Education is putting forward a joint motion with North Vancouver and that, due to deadlines, it has already been submitted. It can be rescinded if there is dissent.

The motion reads

Be it resolved:

That BCSTA work with the MOE to establish a working committee in the event that the funding formula for Public Education comes up for review. With representation from both the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance, the goal of the committee would be to visit each school district and to consult with individual Boards of Education and their senior staff to identify their school district's unique educational and community needs. Further, that this process precede any work of the Technical Review Committee in order to inform the TRC on the priorities and concerns that exist district by district, and to assist in the development of a new funding formula for public education in British Columbia that will be fair and equitable.

The Chair made it clear that the motion does not ask for a re-opening of the funding formula conversation, but instead to ensure that there is full consultation if and when it comes up for review.

#1282	<p><u>MOTION</u> THAT the Board approve the submission to the BCSTA of the substantive AGM motion regarding the establishment of a working committee in the event that the funding formula for public education comes up for review.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Carried.</u></p>
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H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Human Resources Committee Meeting – February 7, 2017

- Priority Measures spending
- Board funding for specialty teaching credentials
- Summer Learning
- Professional development
- Economic Stability Dividend
- Exempt compensation
- Wellness

Committee Chair Brown briefly reviewed the minutes and displayed a graph indicating where the school district's employees live, as she found it interesting and informative. While losing staff to districts closer to home remains a concern, the majority of WVS employees do live relatively close to work.

#1283	<p><u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held February 7, 2017 be received.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Carried.</u></p>
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2. Finance & Facilities Committee Meeting – February 14, 2017

- School Enhancement Program (SEP) update
- Classroom Redesign Working Group & Art Institute of Vancouver
- Freedom of Information (FOI) request
- VOIP update
- 2017/18 Enrollment Estimate
- 2016/17 Amended budget

In the absence of Committee Chair Stevenson, Trustee Dorsman briefly reviewed the minutes and then passed the floor to the Director of Facilities, who explained the Art Institute initiative to trustees.

Trustee Dorsman then reviewed the amended budget and reported that revenues had increased by \$3 million over the preliminary budget, and while there were associated costs, we were able to retain \$1.9 million in our reserves after balancing the 2016/17 budget. After contingency and allocated track contributions are deducted, we are able to carry forward \$700,000 in reserves to apply to the 2017/18 annual budget as necessary.

The Chair thanked the Secretary Treasurer for her hours of hard work on the budget.

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Trustee Dorsman then read the amended budget by-law.

#1284	<p><u>MOTION</u> THAT the Board approve A BYLAW of the BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.45 (WEST VANCOUVER) (hereinafter called the “Board”) to adopt the Amended Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2016/2017 pursuant to section 113 of the <i>School Act</i>, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 412 as amended from time to time (called the “Act”).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Board has complied with the provisions of the Act respecting the Amended Annual Budget adopted by this bylaw.2. This bylaw may be cited as School District No. 45 (West Vancouver) Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for fiscal year 2016/2017.3. The attached Statement 2 showing the estimated revenue and expense for the 2016/2017 fiscal year and the total budget bylaw amount of \$78,808,784 for the 2016/2017 fiscal year was prepared in accordance with the Act.4. Statement 2, 4 and Schedules 1 to 4 are adopted as the Amended Annual Budget of the Board for the fiscal year 2016/2017. <p>READ A FIRST TIME THE 24th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2017; READ A SECOND TIME THE 24th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2017; READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ADOPTED THE 24th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2017.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried.</p>
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The Chair asked if she could take the time to publically thank the Director of Facilities and his staff for their exceptional work during the last 8 – 10 weeks. In dealing with the extreme weather conditions, they have put in long hours and managed the extra workload well. She said it is much appreciated by everyone in the district. The Director of Facilities thanked her for the recognition and kind words and said he would pass them on to his staff.

#1285	<p><u>MOTION</u> THAT the minutes of the Finance & Facilities Committee meeting held February 14, 2017 be received.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Carried.</u></p>
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I. FOR INFORMATION

The Chair noted that housekeeping changes have been made to two administrative procedures: AP 217 – Work Experience Programs; and AP 250 – Selection of Learning Resources. The updated versions have been posted on the public district website.

J. CORRESPONDENCE

A list of the correspondence from the past month is posted online at <http://westvancouver.schools.ca/board-correspondence>

K. TRUSTEE MEETINGS & EVENTS

The Chair noted that the UBC Alumni Round Table with President Santa Ono was unexpectedly cancelled and is likely to be rescheduled.

A Focused Conversation on Communicating Student Learning BCPSEA AGM BCSTA Education Committee Meeting BCSTA Metro Meeting BCSTA Provincial Council Cypress Park 100 th Birthday Celebration Facilities Visit Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting	Gleneagles Blessing Ceremony Human Resources Committee Meeting Meeting with Mayor Mike Smith North Shore Immigrant Inclusion Partnership P J Winter Carnival Crepe Lunch Presidents' Committee Meeting WV DPAC Meeting WV Streamkeepers
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L. QUESTION & COMMENT PERIOD (10 Minutes)

Rob Millard – President, WVTA

- Said that the priority measures funding discussions were, overall, a positive experience
- Thanked the district for their transparency and said that whenever information was requested, it was always received, which allowed him to better answer members' questions
- Said that going forward, this is a good model

The Chair thanked Mr Millard for his comments and said she thinks they can agree that things went as well as can be expected and congratulated everyone involved in the process.

- Asked the Secretary Treasurer, via the Chair, if today's budget announcement regarding the cut in MSP premiums was good news

The Secretary Treasurer replied that it was good news, as the district pays premiums on behalf of its employees and it will mean a lower cost to us. As the cut does not take effect until 2018, there will be no savings reflected in the 2016/17 amended budget.

- Said he had heard that there may be an application process related to the MSP changes and asked if there was any more information

The Secretary Treasurer replied that she had heard something along the same lines, but nothing concrete and she will let everyone know if necessary.

The Chair concluded the meeting by reminding everyone that there is no board meeting in March and wished everyone a safe and happy spring break.

M. ADJOURNMENT

8:48 pm

BOARD CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER