



**Memorandum**  
vancouver school board



December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

Item 2

TO: Management Coordinating – Committee I

FROM: Scott Robinson, Superintendent

**RE: Notice of Motions from the November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 Board Meeting**

**INTRODUCTION:**

At the public Board Meeting of November 23, 2015 three notices of motions were received. They were referred to the December 2, 2015 Committee 1 meeting for action.

**BACKGROUND:**

The following notices of motions were received at the November 23, 2015 Board Meeting.

1. That the Board develop and approve a policy on the role and responsibilities of the Board Chair. (Submitted by Trustee Fraser)
2. That the VSB develop, adopt and implement a policy regarding the role and responsibilities of the Board Chair. (Submitted by Trustee Bacchus)  
The motion included further information on what the policy would state.
3. That the Board develop and approve a policy on the role and responsibilities of the Board Vice-Chair. (Submitted by Trustee Robertson)

Copies of all three motions are attached.

**CONCLUSION:**

The board referred the above motions to Committee 1 for further discussion. The Board does not currently have explicit policy language relating to the role of the chair and vice-chair. Staff will await for further direction from the board.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

This report is provided for information.

**Notice of Motion for November 23, 2015 VSB meeting**

Submitted by Janet Fraser

Motion:

That the board develop and approve a policy on the role and responsibilities of the Board Chair.

**Notice of Motion for November 23, 2015 VSB  
meeting**

Submitted by Patti Bacchus

Motion:

That the VSB develop, adopt and implement a policy regarding the role and responsibilities of the Board Chair.

The policy shall state:

- The role of the chair is to:
  - Preside over meetings of the board, as per VSB policy BCA/BCB.
  - Ensure meetings and debates are held in a respectful manner by maintaining a positive climate for discussion and in accordance with *Roberts Rule of Order*.
  - Ensure all trustees have the opportunity to participate in discussion and debate and all members, staff and members of the public are treated respectfully.
  - Be the spokesperson for the board and speak on its behalf by representing and defending Board positions and decisions, as made by formal votes.
  - When representing the Board at events, meetings with other levels of government, hearings or other organizations, the Chair is limited to speaking for positions the board has determined through the passage of motions. The Chair may and should bring issues back to the board for consideration if it has not yet adopted positions on the matter.

- Share with all trustees any and all information from meetings with other levels of government or external organizations at which the Chair attended as the Board's representative.
- Refrain from using the role to promote his/her/their personal position on a matter.

Rationale : While historically there has been a consensus and practice that the Board Chair acts and speaks on behalf of the board as outlined above, more recent practice has been for the Board Chair to critique board decisions and express hope that those decisions are rescinded. It is thus important to codify the role in a formal policy to ensure the Chair accurately and appropriately represents the Board.

**Notice of Motion for November 23, 2015 VSB meeting**

Submitted by Stacy Robertson

Motion:

That the board develop and approve a policy on the role and responsibilities of the Board Vice Chair.