

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 85 (VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH)

September 09, 2019

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Leighton Wishart, Chairperson of the Board of Education, at the School Board Office, Port Hardy B.C. at 6:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Paul Cann, Trustee
Jeff Field, Vice-Chair
Lawrie Garrett, Trustee
Eric Hunter, Trustee
Carol Prescott, Trustee

By phone: Leanne Farrell, Trustee

WELCOME

Chairperson Wishart opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Kwakwaka'wakw people.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
60/19**

Farrell/Hunter:
That the regular meeting minutes of the June 10, 2019 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

1. Presentation: *Japan Trip*
2. Assistant Superintendent: *Field Trip*
3. Assistant Superintendent: *Enrollment*

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA
61/19**

Prescott/Cann:
That the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

**PRESENTATION:
JAPAN TRIP**

Superintendent Robertson presented photos of the current field trip to Japan. Chair Wishart asked if he was able to have a written report on the trip for the local newspapers and inquired about the possibility of monthly write-ups for the newspapers on the good things happening in the district. Ms. Robertson advised she will speak with the Principal of NISS regarding a report on the trip and agreed it would be good to have more information in the newspapers.

**CORRESPONDENCE:
CARDS**

Chair Wishart shared the cards of thanks received including one from recent graduate from NISS, Clayton Harder who thanked the Board for the scholarship he received. Chair Wishart noted he also received a card from Camp Homewood thanking the district for its support along with a thank you from retired teacher Ms. Holly Williamson in appreciation to the Board for her retirement gift.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Trustee Farrell explained the process to date, referring to the diagram in the draft Strategic Plan document. Trustee Farrell then reviewed the draft Strategic Plan noting some of the changes that were made from the previous plan. Superintendent Robertson noted these changes were consistent with the Ministry's direction on student success.

STRATEGIC PLAN

A discussion took place on the wording of the plan. Under 'Access and Opportunities' it was agreed that the first bullet be reworded to: "Ensuring all students have the opportunity to focus on meeting their educational goals and aspirations." The Board also agreed that the final bullet should read: "Ensuring all students have the opportunity to maximize their potential and develop important life skills through experiential and place-based learning." Ms. Robertson then thanked Trustee Farrell for all of her hard work and then thanked the Board for their assistance in reviewing the final draft.

62/19

Hunter/Farrell:

That the 2019-2025 Strategic Plan be approved with amendments as discussed.

CARRIED

**P/VP PRO-D
DAYS**

Superintendent Robertson discussed the August 28 and 29, 2019 P/VP professional development days. One day was held at the SBO with Debbie Craig from BCPSEA who presented on "Managing in a Unionized Environment." Ms. Robertson reported that it was a great day, with much learned and everyone participating. Ms. Robertson reported that the second day was held in Alert Bay where Sr. Admin and P/VP had a team building exercise and orientation session at Alert Bay Elementary School followed by a visit to Gator Gardens and U'mista Cultural Centre with a lens on student learning that can be passed along to teachers.

COAL HARBOUR SURVEY

As a result of the Long Range Facilities Planning, it was determined that there are currently 55 students being bussed to EVES, EMXLC and PHSS from the Coal Harbour area. Superintendent Robertson asked the Board to review the draft parent survey to see what interest there would be from the Coal Harbour community in attending a school in Coal Harbour. Discussions took place around the table considering many factors including funding, one room schools, bussing, etc. Vice-Chair Field suggested some rewording.

63/19

Prescott/Garrett:

That the Board approve a survey of parents and guardians of current school district students living in the Coal Harbour and Quatsino areas, with changes as discussed.

CARRIED

**SCHOOL PLANS
64/19**

Prescott/Hunter:

That all school plans be approved.

**DISBURSEMENTS
65/19**

Field/Cann:

That June, July and August 2019 disbursements statement be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**2018-2019 ANNUAL
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
APPROVAL**

As per the Audit Presentation during the Committee of the Whole Meeting, Mr. Martin noted there were no significant deficiencies identified and that operating surplus increased by \$300,000. Mr. Martin recommended the Board approve the audited financial statements.

66/19

Field/Garrett:
That the 2018-2019 Audited Financial Statements be approved.

CARRIED

**BCSSA LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE**

Assistant Superintendent Ms. Christina MacDonald shared that she attended the BCSSA Leadership Conference August 14-16, 2019 where there were very good discussions around the need for educational change. Ms. MacDonald advised the title was called Compassionate Disruption for Educational Equity and Transformation with many debates; Rod Allen, Robert Sawyer, and John Watkins spoke about the Deeper Learning Dozen. Ms. MacDonald felt it was a great three days.

FIELD TRIP

Ms. MacDonald presented a field trip request for a whale watching trip on September 27, 2019 out of Telegraph Cove for 34 Grades 2-7 FRES students with a 1:3 ratio of adult chaperones to students. Trustee Cann inquired about life jackets requirements and if students are to wear them while walking on the boardwalk or just when they are on the boat. Ms. MacDonald agreed to check into the lifejacket policy and advise.

67/19

Field/Prescott:
That the whale watching field trip out of Telegraph Cove for the Grade 2-7 FRES students planned for September 27, 2019 be approved.

ENROLLMENT

Ms. MacDonald advised that due to the decline in enrollment in one of the schools in the Port Hardy area, there will be a 1.5 FTE staffing reduction through Board initiated transfers. Ms. MacDonald advised no job loss is anticipated at this time and staff at the school have been informed.

**CLASSROOM
ENVIRONMENT**

Trustee Garrett noted that during one of the school visits he noticed one of the classrooms was extremely hot. Trustee Garrett referred to the document in the Board package on Classroom Environment whilst discussing temperature, lighting and noise levels. Trustee Garrett asked Manager of Operation and Maintenance, Mr. Darby Gildersleeve, if he could look into the issues of having moderate temperature throughout SD85 and adjusting lighting for smart boards without turning off all of the lights in the classroom. Trustee Garrett felt that noise level seems adequate. Mr. Gildersleeve advised that LEDs are being considered which would result in cost savings as well as providing automatic adjustments for proper lighting. He then spoke to the temperature issue stating that the more modern systems are settable by the teacher, that most schools' thermostats can be controlled remotely, however sometimes there are malfunctions. Trustee Garrett suggested we approach these classroom environment issues based on what is best for student learning.

**TRUSTEE SHARING
BCPSEA**

Vice-Chair Field advised that there is nothing new to report. He stated that he has forwarded all information to date and the mediator is supposed to meet again on September 23, 2019, therefore more information should be available in October. Vice-Chair Field then shared about the 40 year reunion of the first Grad Class of PHSS which will take place this weekend with events throughout.

BCSTA Trustee Prescott advised that she will be attending the Provincial Council Meeting on October 23, 2019 and will report out at the following Board Meeting. Trustee Prescott also shared that SVEJSS had a 'welcome back' barbeque that was well attended and that she plans on attending the AJEES PAC meeting this coming Wednesday.

FNEC Trustee Hunter advised that the date of the first FNEC meeting of the 2019-20 school year will be announced soon. Trustee Hunter then shared that he very much enjoyed the visit to Grassroots.

Trustee Garrett shared that he travelled to the Yukon this summer and after doing so would like to encourage more of our SD85 Field Trips to take place within Canada to places with lots of history such as Dawson City. Trustee Garrett stated there is lots of great enthusiasm at schools right now after coming back from summer break.

Chair Wishart shared that he attended the FRES barbeque at noon on Friday and that it was great seeing all the kids. Chair Wishart noted that EMXLC attended as well and everyone there was having fun.

Trustee Farrell reported that the Mount Waddington Health Network received a grant over the summer of \$120,000 from the BC Union of Municipalities to do a housing needs assessment. Trustee Farrell also shared that they are still discussing the transportation needs of the region. The Wellness Committee are refocusing on an update of the addictions and recovery service plan and are meeting with seniors for Better Living Community.

STUDENT TRUSTEE There was no student trustee present.

DPAC REPRESENTATIVE There was no DPAC representative present.

VINTA REPRESENTATIVE There was no VINTA representative present.

CUPE REPRESENTATIVE There was no CUPE representative present.

QUESTIONS A parent inquired about the length of time it would take to reopen Coal Harbour School. Chair Wishart discussed the process for reopening of a school, noting that if approved it would be no sooner than 2021. Chair Wishart then recommended the parent communicate with other parents about the survey.

ADJOURNMENT
68/19 Prescott:
That the regular meeting of September 09, 2019 be adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer