

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

November 18, 2019

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Leightan Wishart, Chairperson of the Board of Education, at the School Board Office in Port Hardy, B.C. at 6:01 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Leanne Farrell, Trustee
Jeff Field, Vice-Chair
Lawrie Garrett, Trustee
Eric Hunter, Trustee
Carol Prescott, Trustee

Not in Attendance: Paul Cann, Trustee

WELCOME

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
82/19**

Farrell/Garrett:
That the regular meeting minutes of the October 07, 2019 meeting be approved.

CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

1. Field Trip – Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christina MacDonald
2. BAA Courses – Vice-Chair Field

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA
83/19**

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

CARRIED

**JAPAN TRIP
PRESENTATION**

NISS students Gwynth Canovas, Macey Guldger and Louise Olesen along with PHSS student Joelle Wigard presented a slide show from their trip to the Tsunami Summit in Japan. The students shared their experiences with the local culture, students from other countries and an overview of the Tsunami Summit itself which was conducted in English with representation from 44 countries. The students stated that they learned how other countries prepare for natural disasters and worked with others during the summit to develop and present action plans which they then would take home to their communities. The students expressed their appreciation for the knowledge and friendships they gained during their experience.

LETTER – TODD STONE

Chair Wishart referred to the letter on vaping from Todd Stone in the Board Package which was received prior to the release of the recent regulations.

**ALL SUPERINTENDENTS'
MEETING**

Superintendent, Ms. Carol Robertson reported on the Superintendents' Meeting which was broken into four sessions for information giving and fact finding on Child Care and Partnerships, Indigenous Student Outcomes, Graduation Assessments/Career Development and the new Funding Model Implementation.

Superintendent Robertson also advised that the Ministries of Education and Health are working together to look at the possibility of allocating a PEN for children when they initially get their health number to help support good health in conjunction with education.

Superintendent Robertson noted that most SD85 Principals and secretarial staff will be taking part in a 30-minute interview regarding Early years, Kindergarten and StrongStart.

She advised that the Ministry of Children & Family Development (MCFD) is working closer with Education to identify and support children at risk or in care. Foster parents will have greater signing power allowing them to sign off on school consent forms with the exception of high risk activities which will remain the responsibility of the legal guardian, MCFD.

Superintendent Robertson announced that SD85 has received a grant of \$32,500 from the Ministry of Education to support mental health and well-being. It will be used to support social emotional learning, trauma informed practice and for work with indigenous partners in the school district. An action plan will be developed by January 2020 and the grant spent by the end of June 2020.

Superintendent Robertson explained that our student outcomes are showing that the percentage of non-Indigenous students graduating is still much higher than those of Indigenous students. She noted that district staff continue to work with schools to identify individual students at risk of failing. We will be asking the Ministry of Education to support the district in our efforts to improve student outcomes. School District 85 would like to see all the great work we do around language and culture translate into greater graduation rates.

N'WE JINAN

Superintendent Robertson explained that N'we Jinan is the name of the production company that produced the song and video *My K'wala'yu* performed by some students at Eke Me-Xi. After viewing the video, Superintendent Robertson stated that this is a great example of tailoring our programs to our students.

MEDICAL HEALTH NOTICE

Superintendent Robertson referred to the Island Health vaping information included in the Board Package. She noted that there has since been a press release on vaping which was also provided to the Board. A video from a US news report on vaping was shared with the Board showing different vaping devices students are using and bringing into the classroom that are disguised as regular school supplies, clothing, etc. Superintendent Robertson noted that although the government is introducing new regulations, the district needs to do the same to help further support the health of our students.

**DISBURSEMENTS
84/19**

Field/Hunter:
That October 2019 disbursements statement be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**FOCUSED EDUCATION
RESOURCES**

Assistant Superintendent Christina MacDonald attended a conference on October 4th for Focused Education Resources (previously ERAC), an organization that overviews tools, websites, and resources for schools. Ms. MacDonald noted that the conference gave a lot of information on cyber security and additional information on FOIPOP including an online course that administrators can take to brush up on FOIPOP regulations. Ms. MacDonald presented the new Focused Education Resources website noting it was a very informative workshop.

EARLY LEARNING SUMMIT

Ms. MacDonald attended the Early Learning Summit on November 8th along with Superintendent Robertson and Principal Ms. Jill Cook who is also the District Lead for Early Learning. The Early Learning Framework was revealed, which covers from 0 to 8 years old, and aligns with the core competencies. Ms. MacDonald then presented some resources she brought back from the summit. She also advised that the Minister of Education and Deputy Minister announced there are grants coming to districts with Early Learning initiatives. As we are a district that participates in the Changing Results for Young Learners Provincial Initiative, we will receive one of the grants to continue the Early Learning work. Ms. MacDonald also referred to the Changing Results for Young Learners website that provides great resources.

SOGI

Ms. MacDonald along with District Principal of Aboriginal Programs/SOGI Lead, Ms. Irene Isaac, attended the SOGI Conference on October 31st. Ms. MacDonald stated that it was an invigorating conference. Participants were updated on some new terminology. The conference had representation from BCSTA, BCSSA, BCCPAC, Ministry of Education, FNESC, BCPVA, BCTF, ARC Foundation and Colleges and Universities with all supporting inclusive spaces for all learners. Ms. MacDonald recommended the SOGI website which includes an abundance of videos and resources for parents, teachers, the Board, etc. She stated that each school in our district has a SOGI lead and that SOGI is now expanding into Alberta as well.

FIELD TRIP

Ms. Christina MacDonald noted that an upcoming PHSS international field trip was approved for 24 students and there is still one spot available. There has been a request to fill this spot with a student from NISS. This request is supported by both administrators. Ms. MacDonald asked if the Board was had any objection to this amendment. There were no objections.

SEAFOOD ALLERGY

Trustee Garrett advised that he had spoken with a parent from EVES who received a note that seafood was not allowed in the school. Trustee Garrett inquired as to why this happens and the severity of the allergy, in light of the reliance on salmon in the area. Superintendent Robertson noted that restrictions are put into place by the Principal when the allergy is life threatening for a student or staff member, based on medical information provided. Secretary Treasurer Mr. John Martin noted that in 2007 the Ministry of Education introduced the framework that governs anaphylaxis and child safety in BC. In 2008, as part of the Board's responsibility, a new policy was introduced. It states that in serious cases, the entire school must be made free of the particular allergen.

**BOARD
AUTHORITY/AUTHORIZED
(BAA) COURSES**

Vice-Chair Field asked if BAA courses are approved annually. Superintendent Robertson explained that approximately two years ago when the curriculum changed, the BAA courses needed to be rewritten and they are all up to date now. Principals are asked at the beginning of the school year to bring forth any course changes or new courses needing approval. Secretary Treasurer, Mr. John Martin noted there is a Board Policy for BAA courses which refers to the Ministry's policy that the Board is required to follow and he noted that there is also a template that needs to be completed for every local course.

TRUSTEE SHARING

Chair Wishart stated that he enjoyed the visits today to Exe Me-Xi and PHSS. He noted that students are doing some fantastic work at EMXLC and saw a great video presentation from Shandi Wamiss. Chair Wishart also stated that it was a nice visit to PHSS where he talked to both the Principal and Vice Principal.

Chair Wishart attended the Board Chairs meeting and was disappointed that no information was given on the bargaining process. He also felt that the Partners meeting was not very interesting with the exception of learning that our school district is equal to or ahead of what the rest of the province is doing.

Chair Wishart also attended the VISTA Conference in Port Alberni which he found very interesting especially in regards to a presentation from Mike Downey.

Trustee Farrell stated that she attended the Mount Waddington Health Council meeting earlier this month noting that it is looking at housing again, but it is currently at a standstill. She also noted that she enjoyed the school visits today and encouraged Shandi Wamiss from EMXLC to look into publishing her book.

Trustee Prescott noted that when at PHSS, there was a presentation by some of the students learning Kwak'wala who made a booklet called 'Kwak'wala for Dummies'. Trustee Prescott stated that she was amazed at how well the booklet was done noting how helpful it would be for staff in the district. Chair Wishart added that there was also a booklet by the students called 'Kwak'wala for Tourists'.

Trustee Hunter attended a feast put on by Alert Bay Elementary which he felt was fantastic and most endearing to see the small children dancing and acquiring something. He also felt it was very professional and well done by the staff. Trustee Hunter stated that he enjoyed the school visits and agreed with Superintendent Robertson that there is a unique student learning aspect in the creation of *My K'wala'yu* by Eke Me-Xi Students and felt it was very moving.

Vice-Chair Field noted that one of the important philosophies at Eke Me-Xi is getting back to the land and personally feels it is great that these students get to see their roots. He stated that it was nice during the PHSS school visit to see previous PHSS grads on staff.

BCPSEA

Vice-Chair Field attended a BCPSEA meeting on November 8 as a rep for the district where he expected to vote, but voting did not happen. He felt the meeting was moot as BCTF had already rejected the mediator's report. Vice-Chair Field also noted that he does not expect to hear anything for two weeks. He reported that the mediator is still available and willing to stay on the job if both sides want his services.

BCSTA

Trustee Prescott reported that, due to weather conditions, ferries to the mainland were cancelled shortly after she arrived at the ferry terminal which prevented her from making it to the BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting.

FNEC

Trustee Hunter stated that the recent FNEC meeting was very successful and well attended. He noted that the FNEC members are very appreciative of the work of the Secretary Treasurer who spoke about budget at the meeting. Trustee Hunter also noted that Ms. Roberta Harris spoke about her proposed trip to Australia at the meeting.

STUDENT TRUSTEE

Student Trustees were present, however did not have any items to share.

DPAC REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Miranda Berry introduced herself as the new DPAC Chair and announced Mr. Jason Lansdowne will remain as Vice-Chair, Ms. Melissa Fletcher is Treasurer and Ms. Katherine Wakes will be Secretary. Ms. Berry advised that flyers have been sent out to parents and guardians inviting them to a workshop hosted by BCCPAC President, Andrea Sinclair. Ms. Berry will email the DPAC workshop flyer out to the Board as well. The workshop will take place on November 26th at the Black Bear Resort in Port McNeill and Eagle View Elementary School, Port Hardy and will help parents to learn more about their role as PAC members and how to advocate for their children.

Ms. Berry attended the DPAC Leadership Summit with Ms. Fletcher and she reported it had a fantastic lineup. They heard from Minister Rob Fleming and received information from speakers on SOGI 123, the PEN System, the Funding Model Review, the Inclusive Education Working Group and the Framework for Enhanced Student Learning. Ms. Berry also reported that Immunize BC was there and that 58 out of the 60 districts are participating in an anonymous online student quiz for grades 4-12. The quiz requires critical thinking in answering questions on science and, for each student who finishes the quiz with 80% or more, UNICEF will provide an immunization for a child. Trustee Garrett thanked Miranda for taking on the position.

VINTA REPRESENTATIVE

VINTA President, Mr. Jason Voth updated the Board that BCTF have given a number of bargaining dates but have not heard anything back at this point. He noted that BCTF do want to get back to the table. Mr. Voth referred to the statement Allan Shell had made regarding the mediator's report and he asked all Trustees to think about whether or not they are willingly agreeing to what is proposed. He expressed his concerns in being such a small and unique district that may not be well served by the proposed prevalence funding model. Mr. Voth feels that we are currently overworking the people trying to supply services to the students and that it will be hard to improve grad rates without proper supports. He noted that this amplifies the fact that we are \$1,810 short

in per student funding compared to the average across Canada. He also expressed his concern with the possible upcoming PEN System.

CUPE REPRESENTATIVE

There was no CUPE representative present.

ADJOURNMENT

85/19

Prescott:

That the regular meeting of November 18, 2019 be adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer