

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

March 09, 2020

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Leightan Wishart, Chairperson of the Board of Education, at North Island Secondary School in Port McNeill, B.C. at 6:03 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Paul Cann, Trustee (left the meeting at 7:55)
Leanne Farrell, Trustee
Jeff Field, Vice-Chair
Lawrie Garrett, Trustee
Eric Hunter, Trustee
Carol Prescott, Trustee

WELCOME

Board Chair, Mr. Leightan Wishart opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Kwakwaka'wakw.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
12/20**

Prescott/Cann:
That the regular meeting minutes of the February 10, 2020 meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

1. LEAP Group – Superintendent
2. Removal of Field Trip – Assistant Superintendent

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA
13/20**

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

CARRIED

**PRESENTATION – DR.
CHARMAINE ENNS**

Dr. Charmaine Enns of Island Health joined the meeting via teleconference to present her views on COVID-19 along with the possible implications of it on the Port Hardy Secondary European trip. Dr. Enns advised that recommendations change from day to day as it is a rapidly changing situation. She confirmed that Italy has been locked down and there has been a significant increase in cases throughout Europe over the past weekend. Dr. Enns stated that she will provide the information to the Board but that any decision of course is the Board's to make. She then reviewed current travel advisories and special precautions explaining that those traveling anywhere outside of Canada are expected to self-monitor for 14 days after returning and if symptoms develop, are expected to go into isolation. Dr. Enns then reported that at the moment, most people impacted are in their 70's and 80's. She also noted that several other school districts are cancelling any planned trips.

**PRESENTATION – SOLID
PATHWAYS**

District Principal of Aboriginal Programs, Ms. Irene Isaac and Alert Bay Teacher, Ms. Roberta Harris gave a presentation on Solid Pathways, a program based on teaching critical thinking used in Brisbane, Australia to improve success rates for Indigenous students. They also described the Student Impact Centre that reaches out as a support to all students across Australia. Discussions took place surrounding the impact of this program and how it can potentially lessen the workload of teachers as it gives students the tools to be able to keep moving forward while the

teacher is assisting students who are struggling. Ms. Isaac and Ms. Harris are looking at ways to bring this critical thinking pedagogy into SD85 in conjunction with the BC Curriculum to increase the success rate for Indigenous students and benefit all students in the district. They provided information to the Board on how the program works noting that they have set goals for themselves to help keep the momentum of implementing this pedagogy. Ms. Isaac advised that SFU will be hosting a presentation on this in June and anyone interested in attending is invited to contact her for details.

ILC

Superintendent Ms. Carol Robertson reported that four secondary teachers attended ILC (Island Leadership Coalition) training for teachers who aspire to leadership noting that the main topic was Leading in an Era of Truth and Reconciliation.

**CORONAVIRUS / EFT
TOURS UPDATE**

Superintendent Robertson opened a discussion for around the table regarding the current COVID-19 virus and the safety of students scheduled to leave this coming weekend for their planned trip to Europe. It was noted that Italy was taken off the itinerary due to their current situation. A parent meeting took place at Port Hardy Secondary School on Thursday, March 5th where parents were advised of possible outcomes. With a letter from the Board of Education, EFT Tours are willing to provide a refund in one full amount to students who will not be going. EFT Tours advised that they are also willing to change the destinations to Germany and the Alps or to the Eastern Quartet currently all safe to travel. Discussions then took place around the Board table that included options of postponing, cancelling or rerouting as well as refunds, vouchers and their flexibility and the use of fundraised dollars to help cover deductibles. Chair Wishart felt postponing could mean that when the time arrives to go again, the situation could be worse and that travelling now could potentially mean quarantining students for two weeks upon return. Trustee Hunter feels with all of the news and information being received, the global situation is close to being critical. Trustee Hunter then motioned to cancel the trip.

14/20

The Board voted 4 to 3 in favour of cancelling the trip.

CARRIED

Members of the Board and Senior Leadership both offered their sincerest regrets thanking the organizing teachers for their professionalism and hard work and reminding them that the decision was made in the interest of everyone's safety.

LEAP

Superintendent Robertson presented the final LEAP Tour itinerary to the Board inviting them to the Yayuma and dinner at Kwa'lilas on Day 1 along with an open invite to join the tour on Day 2 in Alert Bay. Trustees were asked confirm their attendance with Ms. Christine Ley, Executive Assistant, for planning purposes.

VTRA TRAINING

Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christina MacDonald, reported that VTRA (Violent Risk Threat Assessment Training) basics took place in November 2019 and that on February 21 & 22 the advanced training was held. Next will be the updating of SD85 Critical Incident Protocols. It was

noted that advanced training is not required in order to be a part of the Critical Incident Team.

2020 – 2021 CALENDAR

Ms. MacDonald presented feedback that was received on the draft 2020 – 2021 School Calendar after February's Board Meeting noting that it is not beneficial for Pro-D/In-Service Days to be allocated on the same dates as other districts as it could potentially cause issues with securing presenters, etc. Ms. MacDonald requested Board approval of the SD85 2020 – 2021 School Calendar as presented.

15/20

Field/Farrell:

That the SD85 2020 – 2021 School Calendar be approved.

CARRIED

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Trustee Field advised the Board that Fort Rupert Elementary School parents brought forth concerns regarding the availability of defibrillators as well as precautions being taken by SD85 surrounding COVID-19. Maintenance and Operations Manager, Mr. Darby Gildersleeve advised that currently all schools have defibrillators with the exception of Fort Rupert Elementary, Sea View Elementary / Jr. Secondary and Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre but that these schools will be outfitted with defibrillators as soon as possible. Mr. Gildersleeve then advised that a document was released by the BC Centre of Disease Control regarding COVID-19 with the number one recommendations being to promote good hygiene and respiratory etiquette. The biggest pieces to this information were proper handwashing with soap and water and coughing into your arm. Mr. Gildersleeve advised that masks do very little but promote fear. He also stated that there are guidelines around cleaning that are being followed by the district. Mr. Gildersleeve also reported that with the current mass buying, hand sanitizers and disinfectant wipes normally ordered are becoming hard to get but they are doing their best to fill these orders. Trustee Prescott requested that defibrillators be made a priority. Trustee Field added that a health professional on Eagle View Pac expressed their concern with the number of youth that have respiratory issues due to vaping in the Mount Waddington area as it is higher than the provincial average.

**TRUSTEE SHARING
BCSTA**

Trustee Farrell advised the Board that she attended the recent BCSTA Conference on Trustee Prescott's behalf. She reported that they discussed the funding model and are planning for an active AGM in April. Trustee Farrell stated that there were no motions to speak of.

FNEC

Trustee Hunter stated that the last FNEC meeting for the year is scheduled for May 21, 2020 at the Black Bear Resort in Port McNeill. He also reported that the presentation on vaping recently put on by First Nations Health Authority was very comprehensive and much needed.

Trustee Prescott reported that she received some stats showing that our area is very high on the poverty listing and felt that this emphasized the need for breakfast clubs, etc. FNEC also has totals showing the poverty ratio of First Nations students is increasing making it even more important that we work on teaching skills to help these students become more successful. Trustee Prescott also reported that she had the pleasure of being a part of math night at AJ Elliott Elementary which included a lot of math games and that everyone had a good time.

Trustee Garrett reported that vision testing being carried out by the Lions Club is happening this week for Elementary students within the school district.

Chair Wishart felt the best part of the school visit to AJ Elliott Elementary School today was seeing the kids with the coffee cake taking second place.

Trustee Hunter complimented the AJ Elliott Elementary School principal on the wonderful presentation and delightfully engaging children. He feels this a very unique school and that we have some remarkable educators in our district.

Trustee Farrell made note of a student's very interesting science project – a clean your room app - which she saw during the visit to AJ Elementary School. Trustee Farrell reported that at the recent Mount Waddington Regional Health Meeting, they were discussing the Back Pack Buddies program and advised that they were willing to fund 250 back packs. They noted however, that 350 names were on the list leaving them short funding for 100 backpacks.

Trustee Field advised that in getting out to district Pac meetings, the feedback from parents on the 2020-2021 School Calendar was that the two week spring break seemed the way they wanted to go and that everyone is looking forward to the upcoming break. Trustee Field also stated that he always enjoys the visit to Sointula and thinks that their math results are the best in the province. He also noted that he played a math game with the students during the visit and all were having a great time. Trustee Field felt that students are engaged with these different ways of teaching math.

STUDENT TRUSTEE

Student Trustees had nothing to report.

DPAC REPRESENTATIVE

DPAC Chair, Ms. Miranda Berry reported that PAC has volunteered to help build the packs for the Back Pack Program and support funding. She also noted that last night's meeting did not have quorum and therefore they are still actively recruiting. Ms. Berry advised that she spoke to Fort Rupert Elementary PAC to request they send someone to DPAC level and will ask Port Hardy Secondary at the April meeting. Ms. Berry then expressed that she is looking forward to going to BCPAC conference in May.

VINTA REPRESENTATIVE

VINTA President, Mr. Jason Voth expressed his concern for the wellbeing of VINTA members in regards to work life balance noting that BCTF Health and Wellness plan reported a significant increase in the use of the plan in our local. BCTF are trying to be more proactive in helping VINTA members in the district with resiliency and are currently planning a wellness day in May. The wellness day will help members to be made aware of available resources in rural areas as well as how to access additional resources. Mr. Voth noted that he has a list of possible presenters for this day. He then expressed that he feels the stats are increasing as there is less stigma attached to mental health illness and therefore people are talking more about them. Mr. Voth added that

he feels retention and recruitment will be easier if the district is "happier". He also reported that Work Safe claims are on the rise.

CUPE REPRESENTATIVE

There was no CUPE representative present.

ADJOURNMENT

12/20

Prescott:

That the regular meeting of March 09, 2020 be adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer