

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

May 11, 2020

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Leightan Wishart, Chairperson of the Board of Education, via ZOOM Video Conference at 6:07 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Paul Cann, Trustee
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
25/20**

Hunter/Cann:
That the regular meeting minutes of the April 06, 2020 meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

1. Deputy Minister Report – Superintendent

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA
26/20**

Farrell/Field:
That the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

COVID-19/SD85 UPDATES

Superintendent, Ms. Carol Robertson provided an update on what is happening in the district during the current pandemic:

- Great online learning activities are happening across the district with everyone going above and beyond. Some smaller schools are running with the same schedule for students as though they were still attending. Lessons are being delivered by their teacher on zoom, taking their regular break times and sharing their learning on Freshgrade and other platforms.
- Some teachers have set up classrooms in their homes and are sharing activities with children as though they were in the same room.
- Students unable to go online at the same time as the class or teacher can access the lessons from the school website later that day.
- Students unable to access the internet have, in many cases, been loaned devices and supported with hubs to help them connect. Approximately 200 chrome books have been loaned out across the district.
- Many administrators report that their staff are 'in the groove' having learned a whole new way to deliver lessons and support students. Standards of teaching and learning are high and teachers have stepped up and are exceeding all expectations in the majority of cases.

- Students that can't or don't wish to access the internet are provided with paper packages which are delivered to their homes and either collected or returned to school drop boxes.
- Most students and families are engaging in the learning with enthusiasm. Extra support has been added to those students or families that are struggling.
- In-school learning is taking place for some students with higher learning needs than others or for the families of Essential Service Workers on an as needed and pre-arranged basis.
- All SD85 schools have received generous donations from various places such as the Breakfast Club of Canada, Loaves and Fishes, Backpack Buddies, etc. Administrators, teachers and support staff have been really good about getting these food packages and vouchers out to those who need them.

Superintendent Robertson reported that although teachers and support staff are very excited about the possibility of re-opening schools, some people are concerned for their own, their families' and their students' safety, particularly in light of the recent local COVID-19 outbreak. Superintendent Robertson then discussed some of the challenges in reopening, including the current situation with First Nations communities being closed to the public, and what partial reopening will possibly look like across the district. Further information and guidelines are to be provided by the Minister of Education and the Public Health Officer who are currently working with the unions and executive associations. Once more guidance is received by the Minister of Education, senior leadership will be sending letters letting everyone know what our next steps will be. Plans are being discussed with the Leadership Team and will be discussed with the presidents of VINTA and CUPE once more information is received. The district is working with Public Health and WorkSafeBC to keep everyone as safe as possible.

GRADUATION

Superintendent Robertson announced that no formal grad or Dry Grad celebrations will take place due to COVID-19, however secondary schools are working together to figure out how to formally recognize their grads. There will likely be messaging and formal speeches recorded for the graduates and students have still applied to scholarships. Schools are making their own arrangements to return any donations meant for Dry Grad however some businesses are advising that schools keep the donations. Once all cancellation expenses are sorted, schools will provide gifts to the grads and fundraising will be split between the graduates. Schools are hoping to continue with car parades and are in the process of getting RCMP onboard with this so students are celebrated and can wear their dresses and suits if they so choose.

**DISBURSEMENTS
27/20**

Field/Hunter:
That the March 2020 disbursements statement be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

28/20

Field/Hunter:
That the April 2020 disbursements statement be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Manager of Operations and Maintenance, Mr. Darby Gildersleeve advised that the design and plans have started for the Science Room renovations at North Island Secondary and that AJ Elliott Elementary is discussing options with vendors for their playground design.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Ray McDonald announced that School District 85 was selected as one of the districts in BC that qualified for extra funding to purchase an electric bus. Mr. Gildersleeve and Mr. McDonald provided the cost information, benefits and various additional details surrounding the purchasing of an electric bus noting that purchasing larger buses would make the most sense particularly considering the COVID-19 pandemic. Seatbelts, cost effectiveness, battery life, best suited routes, battery charging hours and charging station locations were some of the items also discussed surrounding the purchasing of new buses.

Mr. Gildersleeve reported that the Ministry has requested for a more defined business case and scope of what the district is looking for before demolition or partial of the two abandoned schools as set out in the recent Long Term Facilities Plan. He advised that there is a company currently looking at the risk assessment of the hazardous materials of these partial demolitions.

**ANNUAL BUDGET BYLAW
FOR 2020/21 (3 Readings
required)**

Board Chair Wishart asked for approval from all trustees to complete all three readings on this item at this meeting. The Board was in agreement.

At the request of Mr. Ray McDonald, the Board agreed to move this item to the June 2020 meeting.

ZOOM

Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christina MacDonald, advised that the Ministry of Education has secured and funded licenses for the Enterprise Version of ZOOM for all school districts across British Columbia. She noted the significance of this due to the security issues with the current platform and that the licensing agreement for the Enterprise Version complies with BC's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Administrators can now control permissions and privileges as well as unnecessary features that may not be safe to use. The server is based in Canada and has added encryptions for security. Many staff have already received the information required to use this more secure version of Zoom. SD85's IT Department is able to monitor from their end any issues that may occur.

ShareEdBC

Ms. MacDonald reported that the Ministry has been talking about the ShareEdBC online platform being developed to provide educational lessons and content to teachers and educational partners. The content on the website has been created by teachers and reviewed based on specific Ministry criteria. This invite only platform will be coming to SD85 very soon. Invites are expected to be sent to teachers this week which will allow them to access all of the lessons and learning resources on the site.

**TRUSTEE SHARING
BCPSEA**

Trustee Field advised that all information he has received from BCPSEA has been forwarded and that there is nothing new to report.
Trustee Prescott advised there is nothing to report from BCSTA.

BCSTA

Trustee Hunter reported that a Scholarship Meeting is scheduled to take place via Zoom on May 14, 2020 noting there weren't as many applicants as in previous years, but still a good amount under the circumstances.

FNEC

Trustee Farrell shared that the Mount Waddington Health Council met last week via Zoom and that they are continuing on with their programs. Everything that was in the works before the pandemic is still continuing and will be COVID-19 friendly. Trustee Farrell also advised that there is a very interesting grant currently in place that you can apply for to receive honorariums from \$50 - \$300 for community support such as delivering food to neighbors, growing gardens, etc.

STUDENT TRUSTEE

There were no Student Trustees present.

DPAC REPRESENTATIVE

There was no DPAC Representative present.

VINTA REPRESENTATIVE

VINTA President, Mr. Jason Voth brought forth concerns regarding the implementation of the exposure control plan before getting staff back into the buildings. He stated that he is hoping to get health and safety meetings started noting that the level of anxiety has grown with teachers and that he is urging people to step back and look at things logically. Mr. Voth voiced his appreciation for the Superintendent's comments on how successful the teachers have been during the current situation and stated that he looks forward to discussing the eventual return to face to face education.

CUPE REPRESENTATIVE

There was no CUPE Representative present.

**ADJOURNMENT
29/20**

Field:
That the regular meeting of April 06, 2020 be adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer