

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

September 14, 2020

6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Leighton Wishart, Chairperson of the Board of Education, via ZOOM Video Conference at 6:01 pm with the following in attendance:

Carol Prescott, Trustee
Paul Cann, Trustee
Leanne Farrell, Trustee
Jeff Field, Trustee
Eric Hunter, Trustee
Lawrie Garrett, Trustee

WELCOME

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
40/20

Farrell/ Hunter:
That the regular meeting minutes of the June 08, 2020 meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Attendance- Assistant Superintendent

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:
41/20

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

CARRIED

PRESENTATION:

Dr. Charmaine Enns was introduced by Secretary- Treasurer, Mr. Ray McDonald. Dr. Enns is with Public Health- North Island and has been our Island Health School Officer for the past 17 years. Dr. Enns discussed the Global Pandemic, Covid-19, school restart plans being high on our priority, followed with a question period at the end.

Mr. Darby Gildersleeve provided information on the handwashing stations made available in the schools.

DEPUTY MINISTER LETTER:

Superintendent, Ms. Carol Robertson referred to the Deputy Minister Letter in the Board Package that confirmed Stage 2 Restart Plans were

submitted to the Ministry of Education. Ministry staff reviewed the documents provided and confirmed their alignments with the requirements set out in the COVID-19 Operational Guidelines, including the specific health and safety measures.

RESTART PLANS:

Superintendent, Ms. Carol Robertson stated that the Senior Leadership was mandated to create a restart plan for the School District. We have tried to make the website more user friendly to provide information on COVID-19 information. If anyone needs support, please reach out to schools or the Senior Leadership Team. They are happy to help navigate the information. Ms. Robertson addressed Distant Learning. School District 85 is not a Distant Learning approved District. Our buildings and schools are not full to capacity and at this time we do not have the ability to employ more teachers due to location and budget.

If a student is immune compromised, they may be approved for alternative or online learning.

There have been many changes to buses, ferry schedules, cohorts and social distancing. School District No. 85 does not have a contract for the Ferries. This is managed by B.C. Ferries. There have been negotiations taking place to make ferries work for our students and staff. Ms. Robertson thanked Ray, Darby, Stacia and Irene for all their help and efforts with making changes to school schedules, bus schedules and ferry schedules.

Reminder that if your child is sick to please stay home. The District will be notified from the Personal Health Officer if there is a need to inform families of COVID-19 contact. Explained that it would be a breach of confidentiality if we shared any student or staff information with regards to COVID-19.

Ms. Robertson mentioned that there have been some angry, derogatory comments received from members of the community and that this behavior is unacceptable. We are all doing our best to keep the staff and students safe. Safety is key and we understand your anxiety and frustrations.

BOARD MEETINGS:

Discussion on whether to continue having board meetings in person occurred and it was decided by Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team that Board Meetings will continue via Zoom. Meeting in person at this time is not ideal, crossing cohorts and coming together would be irresponsible.

TELP:

Ms. Robertson shared the great news that four of our District Principals applied to TELP and were accepted. Congratulations to the ladies.

DISBURSMENTS:

Cann/ Hunter:

42/20

That the June disbursement statements be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

43/20

That the July disbursement statements be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

44/20

That the August disbursement statements be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

FINANCIALS:

Field/ Farrell:

45/20

That the 2019-2020 Financial Statements be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

HEALTH & SAFETY:

Mr. Ray McDonald, Secretary-Treasurer discussed the hand washing stations in school bathrooms and that there are multiple classrooms with sinks. All entrances have hand sanitizer stations and there are ample handwashing stations in buildings. School District No. 85 is being provided with specific funding to increase the amount of handwashing stations. We have followed all guidelines from the Provincial Health Officer. Mr. McDonald addressed concerns of some students not wearing masks on the school bus and explained that there are both Elementary and Secondary students riding the bus, in assigned seats so that cohorts are not mixed. Elementary students are not expected to wear masks. This would be their choice. The School Bus protocols are available on our School District website.

DISTANT LEARNING:

Assistant Superintendent, Christina McDonald reviewed the differences between homeschooling and Distant Learning. Homeschooling is an educational program provided to a child by a parent, not under the supervision or direction of a qualified teacher.

Distributed learning programs are taught by qualified Teachers. These programs may be online or may be referred to as a Distance Learning option. Anyone with questions should contact Ms. Christina MacDonald.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

Ms. MacDonald shared that the School District No. 85 received donations of 120 backpacks from an anonymous donator, totaling \$8000.00 worth of supplies. These will be distributed to students around the District.

FOOD DONATIONS:

Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society donated \$1500.00 of non-perishable food items for School District No. 85 school breakfast clubs.

Ms. MacDonald shared that we have had approximately 95% attendance in the schools. Reminded that parents are instructed to assess their students health, prior to sending students to school.

BUSSING:

Trustee Farrell talked about the pilot project in Nanaimo & Duncan. School District No. 85 has purchased two new busses with seatbelts and hoping when they arrive we can apply to participate in the pilot project. Trustee Farrell mentioned that we are doing everything we possibly can to have our School District safe for everyone, Kindergarten to Seniors.

TRUSTEE SHARING:

Trustee Field discussed BCPSEA. Talked about what PPE we have available for our substitute teachers and anyone who may cross cohorts. There are also portable plexiglass face shields available.

FNEC:

Trustee Hunter informed there are three FNEC meetings scheduled.

BCSTA:

Trustee Prescott, nothing to report at this time.

HEARING OF DELEGATES:

Mr. Jason Voth, President of VINTA mentioned that he has some proposals for funding for Mr. Ray McDonald, Secretary- Treasurer. It was asked if there are enough teachers hired for our District and Ms. MacDonald informed that there is only one posting that needs to be filled at this time and that the TTOC list is open.

CUPE:

No representative present.

DPAC:

Ms. Miranda Berry addressed that there are parents expressing concerns with ferry schedules and some students are missing time from school. Ms. Berry stated that this shall get easier as times goes on and that DPAC will be meeting by Zoom at the end of September.

STUDENT TRUSTEES:

No representative present.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:

Superintendent, Ms. Carol Robertson introduced Andrea Patterson as Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.

ADJOURNMENT:

46/20

Field/ Hunter:

That the public meeting of September 14, 2020 be adjourned (7:33pm)

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary- Treasurer