

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

October 5, 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:

Leighton Wishart, Chair
Jeff Field, Vice-Chair
Paul Cann, Trustee
Leanne Farrell, Trustee
Carol Prescott, Trustee
Eric Hunter, Trustee
Lawrie Garrett, Trustee
Xandry Frost, Student Trustee
Ella Barrett, Student Trustee

WELCOME	Chair Wishart opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation.	
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 47/20	Field/Garrett: That the regular meeting minutes of the September 14, 2020 meeting be approved as circulated.	CARRIED
ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA	No additions.	
ADOPTION OF AGENDA 48/20	Field/Cann: That the agenda be adopted as amended.	CARRIED
PRESENTATION	None.	
CORRESPONDENCE	None.	
DISTRICT REPORTS 49/20		

THE GREAT SHAKEOUT

Superintendent, Carol Robertson reported the Great Shakeout will be held on October 15, 2020. We have a meeting to make sure that the message is clear around cohorts when outside of the building. The scenario is set by the building maintenance manager.

MENTAL HEALTH GRANT

Superintendent, Carol Robertson announced provincial funding from the Ministry of Education has been allocated in the amount of \$57,000. The Mental Health Grant will be split between 10 schools according to student numbers. Each school will submit a report prior to receiving funds, detailing their intended use.

TRANSPORTATION

Secretary-Treasurer, Ray McDonald presented the Capital Bylaw plan that will provide \$65,000 funded by the Ministry to support our transition to an electric bus. It is designated for an electric bus charging station, infrastructure and any funds remaining can be used towards the purchase of the electric bus. It was unanimously agreed to by trustees that the bylaw receive all three readings at this time.

50/20

Field/Hunter:

That the Capital Plan Bylaw CPSD85-02 receive 1st reading.

CARRIED

51/20

Field/Hunter:

That the Capital Plan Bylaw CPSD85-02 receive 2nd reading.

CARRIED

52/20

Field/Hunter:

That the Capital Plan Bylaw CPSD85-02 receive 3rd and final reading.

CARRIED

FUNDING

Secretary-Treasurer, Ray McDonald announced that we have been funded by the Provincial Government with a grant titled 'Safe Return to School' in the amount of \$131, 051. The grant is targeted to 5 areas with specific amounts. The funding will go towards help with more equipment to prevent COVID-19.

DISBURSEMENTS

53/20

Field/Farrell:

That the September disbursement statement be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

FEDERAL FUNDING

Secretary-Treasurer, Ray McDonald announced the Federal government will provide funding for safe return to class. The allocation to BC was a total of \$220 million with \$101 million for the first phase. Our District's first portion is \$232, 017. Part 2 is supposed to come in January. We have been given some broader characteristics to use these funds.

PIDA

PIDA (Public Interest Disclosure Act): This came into force on December 1, 2019. All Districts have to have policy in place by December 31, 2021.

SD85 confirmed by the September 24, 2020 deadline that we would be in compliance by December 31, 2021.

Secretary-Treasurer, Ray McDonald discussed the clarification of Section 71 (1) of the FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act). The Ministry is giving us guidelines of what our responsibilities are. We will be putting a list and links of the public access records on School District No 85 website.

TRACK SIGNAGE

Secretary-Treasurer, Ray McDonald reported signage will be posted around our track and field facilities. It will read 'Due to COVID-19 the track and field will be closed to the public Monday to Friday 8:30am-3:30pm. Thank you for your support.'

FERRIES

Secretary-Treasurer, Ray McDonald reported on the issue of the BC Ferries foot passenger ferry that runs between Alert Bay and Port McNeill. The main issue is that the service from Alert Bay going to Port McNeill was felt to be unsafe for students as the environment was crowded at times and held up to 90 people. We were asked to come up with a safety plan on how many students can ride the ferry safely. The Provincial Health Officer Representative stated the capacity should be maximum 48-50 for a safe environment. We have 71 registered students from Alert Bay going to NISS. That meant we could not safely carry students on one ferry trip. We took our issue to Pacific Western Marine Operator and BC Ferries who manage the contract on behalf of BC Transport. The option we had was to limit the ferry at 48 students, anything over that number would have to take the alternate ferry. We had a meeting with BC Ferries and Pacific Western Marine and they agreed to run the foot passenger ferry twice and limit the capacity to 48 as per the advice of the local Public Health Officer.

Trustee Garrett asked if we could possibly adjust the school schedule to accommodate the ferry. Secretary-Treasurer, Ray McDonald responded that the majority of the users are our students and the ferry should accommodate the schedule for the majority users.

Trustee Field asked who is paying for the second run. Secretary-Treasurer, Ray McDonald responded, BC Ferries, with the support of Western Pacific Marine, are paying for the second run.

Trustee Hunter reported a parent question around the concern with the new school schedule and students missing approximately 1 hour per day.

HAND SANITIZER	Secretary-Treasurer, Ray McDonald discussed an issue that came up at the last DPAC meeting. Some students are having reactions to excessive use of hand sanitizing. We are working on putting hand washing stations in as quickly as possible. We ask parents to please discuss any issues related to their children using hand sanitizer with the school Administrator so they can review each individual case so we can improve it.
ENROLMENT REPORT	Assistant Superintendent, Christina MacDonald reported enrollment numbers as of September 30, 2020. We are currently down 55 students.
NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION	Assistant Superintendent, Christina MacDonald discussed employee orientation will be held on October 22, 2020 for CUPE and VINTA staff. It will be slightly different because it will be by Zoom.
STAFFING UPDATES	Assistant Superintendent, Christina MacDonald discussed 2 positions currently posted. Other than that, all our other positions are filled in our District.
BUSINESS ARISING 54/20	Field/Hunter Trustee Field discussed that the Policy Committee met earlier. We dealt with one item which was the Criminal Records Review Process. PM 2-72. It was a housekeeping matter and we will bring it to the Public Meeting. CARRIED
NEW BUSINESS	No new business.
BCPSEA	Trustee Field discussed not having a meeting that is usually held in November. There is new legislation about “whistle blower”. We will have to tweak some of our policies if people have a complaint.
FNEC	Trustee Hunter noted that a Zoom meeting is scheduled October 8, 2020. Superintendent, Carol Robertson noted that the meeting has been postponed at the moment.
BCSTA	Trustee Prescott noted that the Provincial Council Meeting is coming up on Oct 24, 2020 and advised there is nothing else to report.
HEARING OF DELEGATES	
VINTA	VINTA President, Jason Voth reported some teachers are commenting on how they are feeling overwhelmed. The Mental Health Grant that was mentioned will be crucial in making sure everyone’s mental health is maintained for students and staff within the buildings.

CUPE No representative available to report.

DPAC DPAC Chair, Leslie Dyck was newly elected.

DPAC would like to pass on their gratitude to our teachers and staff who are on the front line.

DPAC Chair, Leslie Dyck reported a concern regarding Sunset School being used as a polling station in the upcoming election. Chair Wishart stated that the school is going to be used but it will be used after hours.

DPAC Chair, Leslie Dyck mentioned the upcoming survey regarding Alert Bay BC ferries. It would be important for parents to express their views. I would be happy to pass along the survey link to the parents through the DPAC channels.

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Student Trustee, Ella Barrett discussed some sanitization protocol concerns.

Student Trustee, Xandryn Frost asked what it will look like for sports teams this year regarding rules and polices? Assistant Superintendent, Christina MacDonald replied that we are reviewing the process and policies around school sports.

Trustee Field asked how student are finding the quarter system. Student Trustee, Xandryn Frost replied that the system gives us a chance to focus better on each class. With that being said, it is only 10 weeks so I feel like our learning is being rushed with a very condensed curriculum.

Chair Wishart asked how students are finding school regarding COVID-19? Student Trustee, Xandryn Frost stated one thing that has been a problem in our school is that students are walking in the halls during class which often creates an issue of mixing cohorts.

QUESTION PERIOD (10 MINUTES MAXIMUM):

Mr. Watson raised a concern about cross community contamination of COVID-19. He referenced policies which seem to be directed at single community larger schools and asked if we were taking any precautions as identified in a unique environment? Is there any work going on between the School District and Public Health to address these concerns?

Superintendent, Carol Roberson replied that we are directed to follow the advice of the Public Health Officer. We need to leave it to the parents to address illness. It is up to the Public Health office to do contact tracing. We would be infringing on confidentiality rights. We do have discussions with the Public Health Officer and we follow those Guidelines which are also on School District No. 85 website.

ADJOURNMENT:
55/20

Field:
That the regular meeting of October 5, 2020 be adjourned (7:29 pm)

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary- Treasurer