

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

February 10, 2020

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 6:04 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
01/20**

Hunter/Cann:
That the regular meeting minutes of the December 09, 2019 meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

1. LEAP Group – Superintendent

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA
02/20**

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

CARRIED

PRESENTATION

Principal of Eagle View Elementary, Ms. Jillian Walkus, introduced presenters Don Kattler, from MCFD along with Joanne Griffith and Emily Ann King from Backpack Buddies. The presenters discussed the Backpack Buddies program and its benefits to students in the community. They explained that the program is now a registered charity that provides over 5000 backpacks a month to students in need within the province of BC and have expanded now into our district with three SD85 schools registered. The program provides backpacks to the schools containing nonperishable food items for students in need to discretely but consistently take home at the end of each week to help ensure they have enough food for the weekend. The program is completely supported by fundraising and donations and therefore is at no cost to the schools. All food provided is easily prepared and consumed by children of varied ages and abilities. Backpack Buddies will also continue support throughout the summer break if schools are able to access the students in need. Backpacks are currently filled in Vancouver and transported but the goal would be to have them packed here by volunteers.

CORRESPONDENCE

Board Chair Wishart stated that a thank you note was received from a 2019 North Island Secondary Graduate who received a French Scholarship. The Graduate is now attending VIU and is very thankful for the contribution.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Superintendent Robertson stated that after much thought and planning within the Senior Leadership Team, schools were closed January 16-17, 2020 due to inclement weather. Manager of Operations and Maintenance, Mr. Darby Gildersleeve added that discussions leading to the decision to close also included organizations such as the ferry services. Superintendent Robertson noted that Friday's closure was due to dangerous road conditions and that information was communicated each morning as soon as possible by contacting local radio stations and posting on the SD85 website. She also stated that the decision to close was carefully made to ensure the safety of students and staff.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS GRANT

Superintendent Robertson informed the Board that the Ministry of Education has once again awarded our district a grant to support mental health in our school and community. Schools have been asked to present a report for how they intend to use their portion of the \$32,500 overseen by District Principal, Ms. Irene Isaac of Aboriginal Programs. Before dividing the grant between the schools, \$5000 was given to Principals, Alison Webber of Fort Rupert Elementary School and Jen Turner of Alert Bay Elementary to run the district Noke HeART Festival.

BOARD SCHEDULE

Superintendent Robertson requested Board Approval to change the March 09, 2020 Committee of the Whole Budget meeting to April's Board Meeting to accommodate an absence. April's Committee of the Whole Policy Meeting would then be pushed forward to the May Board Meeting to which no Committee of the Whole is currently scheduled.

03/20

Prescott/Hunter:

That the proposed changes to the Board Meeting Schedule be approved.

CARRIED

LEAP GROUP

Superintendent Robertson announced that after a visit to our district last year, the Australian LEAP (Leading Educators Across the Planet) Group will be visiting us again this April with a different group of approximately 22 educators. There is a two day program planned for April 21 & 22 including a Yayuma, visit to U'mista Cultural Centre, and school visits to experience how SD85 integrates First Nations Culture into our schools. Superintendent Robertson extended the invitation to the Board to join the LEAP Group on April 21st to attend the Yayuma and dinner at Kwa'lilas. Executive Assistant, Ms. Christine Ley will send an invitation to the Board with times and locations prior to the event. Superintendent Robertson also noted that last year SD85 funded the group but that this year the group will be funding the tour with SD85 taking care of catering at the Yayuma and dinner for the group in the evening.

DISBURSEMENTS

04/20

Field/Hunter:

That the December 2019 disbursements statement be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

05/20

Field/Hunter:

That the January 2020 disbursements statement be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

AMENDED ANNUAL BUDGET 2019/20

The Board approved three readings in one sitting of the Amended Annual Budget 2019-2020.

06/20

Farrell/Garrett:
That the 2019-2020 Amended Annual Budget receive 1st reading.

CARRIED

07/20

Farrell/Garrett:
That the 2019-2020 Amended Annual Budget receive 2nd reading.

CARRIED

08/20

Farrell/Garrett:
That the 2019-2020 Amended Annual Budget receive 3rd reading.

CARRIED

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Ms. Christina MacDonald requested a motion from the Board to approve the approximate 8 minutes necessary be added to the school year for 2020-2021 as discussed during the Committee of the Whole of the same day.

09/20

Prescott/Garrett:
That the 2020-2021 School Calendar be approved with the additional minutes necessary in order comply with Ministry Requirements while maintaining the existing school calendar Pro-D structure and two week Spring Break (separate from Easter).

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT

Ms. Christina MacDonald advised that in reviewing the numbers for 2020-2021, there is a projected enrollment of 1267 as of February 7, 2020 which is about 31 less than our current number. Ms. MacDonald reminded everyone that this number is just preliminary. Trustee Field asked if we are still in funding protection to which Mr. Martin advised they are changing the formula and we will find out as soon as it is released.

CURRENT ENROLLMENT

Ms. MacDonald advised the Board that the figures used in the previous enrollment numbers were inaccurate as projected numbers were used instead of actual. This showed enrollment was down 80 students when the actual is only -7.25.

FIELD TRIPS

Ms. MacDonald presented a field trip request from Cheslakees for Board approval.

10/20

Field/Farrell:
That the whale watching field trip for Cheslakees Elementary students on June 19, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED

Ms. MacDonald presented a field trip request from Sunset Elementary for Board Approval.

11/20

Garrett/Prescott:

That the field trip for Grade 7 students from Sunset Elementary and AJ Elliott Elementary to Victoria from June 15-19, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Farrell advised that she attended the Munt Waddington Health Council where they discussed that Foundry is coming to the area and are in the process of finding a space. She noted that Foundry is a space available for youth to access all types of services without seeing a general practitioner for advice or help with various issues. Trustee Farrell feels this will be of great benefit to our North Island.

Chair Wishart attended the Fort Rupert Elementary and Eagle View Elementary PAC meetings noting there are lots of fundraisers on the go as both schools are in need of funds as they have been helping families during the logging strike. Chair Wishart also stated that he attended the PVP meeting at the Seven Hills Golf Club where a farewell was held for retiring Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. John Martin noting it was great to see past and present employees. Chair Wishart advised that he was part of a conference call with Minister Rob Flemming regarding the budget which should be released on February 18th. Chair Wishart stated that this is the first minister to involve Board Chairs in information prior to it being released.

Trustee Hunter expressed that the school visit to Eagle View Elementary School today was wonderful. He noted that Principal Jillian Walkus said she loves her job and stated he feels she is a very capable and confident principal who was the right choice for a school of that size. Trustee Hunter felt that the PVP farewell gathering was very appropriate and enjoyable and that what we have now with senior management and the Board is a good structure that was greatly contributed by Mr. John Martin.

Trustee Garrett found a contact who has a local kelp processing plant and will take Eke Me-Xi students out in May when they start harvesting kelp. He noted that the contact will even come into the school to spend time sharing additional information with Eke Me-Xi Principal, Ms. Leah Hubbard and her students. Trustee Garrett stated that when leaving Eagle View today after the school visit, he saw students playing in the forest who can walk to the community pool and home for lunch and felt we are quite lucky to have some great properties for our schools in some great locations with playgrounds and in walking distance to the beach.

BCPSEA

Trustee Cann advised that he attended his first BCPSEA AGM and thanked Vice-Chair Field for asking him to attend in his place. Trustee Cann felt it was very informative and learned how BCPSEA works along with its processes. He also noted there was a very good speaker who was involved in the forming of the justice system that spoke about organizational resiliency.

Vice-Chair Field thanked Trustee Cann for attending BCPSEA AGM in his place. Trustee Field then noted that AGM minutes have already been forwarded to everyone.

- BCSTA** Trustee Prescott advised there is nothing to report for BCSTA however, there will be a Provincial Council Meeting on February 21 and 22, 2020. Trustee Farrell has offered to take Trustee Prescott's place and will represent us well.
- FNEC** Trustee Hunter noted that the next FNEC meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2020 starting at 11 am at the School Board Office.
- STUDENT TRUSTEE** There were no Student Trustees present.
- DPAC REPRESENTATIVE** DPAC Chair, Ms. Miranda Berry noted that the last scheduled DPAC meeting was cancelled due to weather with the next one scheduled for February 20, 2020 at 5:30 pm at the School Board Office. She expressed how moved she was by the Backpack Presentation noting that PAC is discussing how to support the program.
- VINTA REPRESENTATIVE** VINTA President, Mr. Jason Voth stated that funding model interested him and he is hopeful they will roll it out and show everyone what it is before implementing it. Mr. Voth noted there is nothing to report regarding bargaining as they are currently in mediation. He also noted that all BCTF members are respecting the mediation boundaries and that no strikes are planned for Spring Break.
- CUPE REPRESENTATIVE** There was no CUPE representative present.
- ADJOURNMENT** Prescott:
12/20 That the regular meeting of February 10, 2020 be adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer