

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

April 06, 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

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**WELCOME**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
17/20**

Hunter/Cann:  
That the regular meeting minutes of the March 09, 2020 meeting be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**ADDITIONS TO THE  
AGENDA**

1. Secondment – Superintendent

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA  
18/20**

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

**CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDANCE**

Board Chair Wishart advised Leadership Certificates were received for the newest Board Members: Paul Cann, Leanne Farrell and Lawrie Garrett.

**CONTINUITY OF  
LEARNING**

Superintendent, Ms. Carol Robertson discussed the Continuity of Learning in the district due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Superintendent Robertson noted some key points including:

- School and District Staff are still working and everyone who is able to is working from home;
- School buildings are only accessed by staff on an as needed basis apart from maintenance and custodial staff; parent/students that require access to the schools to pick up medication or clear out lockers are given access by appointment only;
- Teachers are preparing lessons to deliver to their students online; where this is not possible, arrangements are being made for safe drop off of 2 week work packages to students;
- Support staff will be supporting students remotely once teachers are ready to deliver lessons which will begin on April 14, 2020;
- There is a link on our SD85 website with resources and activities for parents/students while they are waiting for online learning to begin on April 14, 2020;

- Parents are advised to not expect students to cover everything they receive at home or expect to teach their children in the same way we do; teachers are still available to help and answer questions;
- All students currently on track to graduate, will graduate, and all students on track to move to the next grade, will move to the next grade. If a child has been struggling to complete assignments, parents/students have been asked to reach out to their teacher to discuss how they can catch up;
- All teachers, principals and vice-principals are currently phoning and/or emailing all parents to offer reassurance and support. Once we are established, EAs, FNSW, CYCW and other support staff will reach out to those students who require extra supports.

Superintendent Robertson stated that the main aim is to keep everybody safe and well. She noted that the district is hopeful this will soon pass and it will be school as usual however, the district is planning and preparing for both short and longer term.

Additionally, Superintendent Robertson stated that Senior Leadership, Principals and Vice-Principals recently discussed the positives and negatives of the changes in learning due to the pandemic and there are more positives than negatives being reported.

Superintendent Robertson provided a synopsis to the Board after a recent conference call with the Deputy Minister and Dr. Trevor Corneil which included the following information:

- This is a new normal.
- There is a lot of worry over pandemic.
- Prime Minister is telling people to stay home.
- Ministry in BC is drafting guidelines around risk.
- Those 65 and older most vulnerable for death.
- Need to look after the health care workers.
- Need to flatten the curve to prevent healthcare from collapsing.
- In patients who are not critical are discharged from hospital.
- Schools/staff needed to support essential service workers (ESW) which currently means Health Care Workers.
- 1/3 getting COVID-19 will be severe and a number will die.
- 1 or 2 in 10 adults will get COVID, many will be mild.
- Everyone who is sick needs to stay home.
- Children have a low infectivity rate 1-5% of cases – most mild.
- It is not an airborne virus - droplets from coughing etc. will spread it.
- No documented evidence of children giving the virus to adults.
- Deep cleaning of used areas in schools and offices 1-3 times a day (door knobs, light switches, toys, games, consoles, etc.)

Superintendent Robertson then had Executive Assistant, Christine Ley share a video created by Sunset Elementary Staff for their students. Ms.

Robertson noted that other similar feel good things are being done by many of the schools and being shared out to their students.

Trustee Field inquired about updates from the Deputy Minister. Superintendent Robertson advised that whatever is public from these updates is posted on the SD85 website and parent information is additionally posted on the school website and/or Facebook page. Board Chair Wishart added that as of Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, the Ministry is also sharing information with Board Chairs however, there are some things they do not want shared out to help prevent panic. Board Chair Wishart recommended that Trustees should be reading the FAQ's that are updated on the SD85 website. Trustee Field voiced his concern that they are not sharing with all Trustees. Board Chair Wishart noted that he will be sharing out a piece of information to trustees after the meeting but is unable to share during the Public Meeting.

**PERSONNEL**

Superintendent Robertson advised that Mr. Jay Dixon will be remaining on his Secondment with the Ministry for one more year to work on a compilation of online teaching resources. She also advised that both Ms. Stacia Johnson and Ms. Emma Robertson will be staying on as Acting Principal and Acting Vice-Principal of North Island Secondary School.

**DISBURSEMENTS  
19/20**

Field/Garrett:  
That the February 2020 disbursements statement be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**ANNUAL PROGRAMS  
FUNDING AGREEMENT –  
CAPITAL BYLAW**

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.

**20/20**

Hunter/Prescott:  
That Capital Bylaw No. 2020/21-CPSD85-01 receive first reading.

**CARRIED**

**21/20**

Hunter/Prescott:  
That Capital Bylaw No. 2020/21-CPSD85-01 receive second reading.

**CARRIED**

**22/20**

Hunter/Prescott:  
That Capital Bylaw No. 2020/21-CPSD85-01 receive third and final reading.

**CARRIED**

**STAFFING UPDATE**

Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Christina MacDonald, reported that she is currently working on staffing for next year. She also noted that she and Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Ray McDonald will be reviewing projections with VINTA on April 9, 2020 and will have a more comprehensive update at the next Board meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Ray McDonald brought forth an additional comment on local matters stating that that VINTA representative, Mr. Jason Voth, advised they wanted to do their ratification of the collective agreement as a whole. Mr. McDonald stated that feels we should have done the same and voted on local matters as well as the collective agreement.

**23/20**

Field/Cann:  
That VINTA local matters be ratified.

**CARRIED**

**TRUSTEE SHARING  
BCPSEA**

Trustee Field read a poem out of an email he received from a colleague to cheer everyone up.

**BCSTA**

Trustee Prescott advised there is nothing to report from BCSTA.

**FNEC**

Trustee Hunter advised there is nothing to report from FNEC.

**STUDENT TRUSTEE**

There were no Student Trustees present.

**DPAC REPRESENTATIVE**

There was no DPAC Representative present.

**VINTA REPRESENTATIVE**

There was no VINTA Representative present.

**CUPE REPRESENTATIVE**

CUPE Representative, Ms. Jody Welch stated CUPE has nothing to add at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT  
24/20**

Field:  
That the regular meeting of April 06, 2020 be adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Chairperson of the Board

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Secretary-Treasurer