

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

February 13, 2023
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Leighton Wishart, Chairperson of the Board of Education, at the School Board Office, Port Hardy, BC at 6:00 pm with the following in attendance:

Leighton Wishart, Chair
Jeff Field, Vice-Chair
Janet Deane, Trustee
Kat Tjepkema, Trustee
Carol Prescott, Trustee
Eric Hunter, Trustee
Lawrie Garrett, Trustee

WELCOME

Chair Wishart opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Kwakwaka'wakw.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
1/23**

Deane/Hunter:
That the regular meeting minutes of December 12, 2023 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

Field Trips/Rena Sweeney/Public Meeting

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
2/23**

Deane/Tjepkema:
That the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence.

PRESENTATION

District Principal of Early Learning and Child Care, Jill Cook, presented an update on the new Early Learning program and

progress with an Inventory Scan. She also reviewed other programs such as Strengthening the Early Years To Kindergarten Transitions (SEY2KT), Changing Possibilities for Young Children (CP4YC), JustB4, Ready Set Learn (RSL), and Early Learning Framework Implementation (ELFI). Connections have been made with the North Island Crisis and Counseling Centre and the North Island Community Services. Both NICCC and NICS have plans for the Port McNeill area and public information will be released soon.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

**SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT**

Superintendent Christina MacDonald reported on the success of the January In-service Day. Christina attended the DPAC meeting and reported the DPAC chair would like to step down if someone else is able to assume the role. A regional 'Equity in Action' meeting was held in Campbell River in January and a group from the district was able to attend to join discussions. Staffing challenges continue around our district and the province. Despite staffing challenges, the trend on the 5-year and 6-year graduation rates continue to show positive results.

**INDIGENOUS
EDUCATION
ENHANCEMENT
AGREEMENT**

Superintendent Christina MacDonald reported on upcoming community consultation meetings to gather feedback for the new Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement. North zone meetings are scheduled and Christina shared the dates and times.

**DISBURSMENTS
DECEMBER
3/23**

Deane/Garrett:
That the December 2022 disbursement statements be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**DISBURSEMENTS
JANUARY
4/23**

Deane/Garrett:
That the January 2023 disbursement statements be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**AMENDED 2022-2023
BUDGET BYLAW**

Secretary Treasurer John Martin presented the 2022-23 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw. Trustees unanimously agreed to give the bylaw all three readings at this time.

- 5/23** Deane/Tjepkema:
That Amended Annual Budget Bylaw 2022-23 receive first reading.
CARRIED
- 6/23** Deane/Tjepkema:
That Amended Annual Budget Bylaw 2022-23 receive second reading.
CARRIED
- 7/23** Deane/Tjepkema:
That Amended Annual Budget Bylaw 2022-23 receive third reading.
CARRIED
- POLICY UPDATES** Secretary Treasurer John Martin requested the Board approve housekeeping changes to two policies.
- Policy 3-60: Kilometer rate update from \$0.61 to \$0.68 (paved) as per BCSTA rate change effective January 1, 2023.
- P3-60** Deane/Tjepkema:
8/23 That policy 3-60 be adopted as amended.
CARRIED
- Policy 2-280: CUPE staff will be paid their regular hours on the first day of a school closure.
- P2-280** Garrett/Deane:
9/23 That policy 2-280 be adopted as amended.
CARRIED
- ENROLLMENT REPORT 2022-23** Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney reported on enrollment numbers and noted the district is down three and a half learners from September 2022.
- NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION** Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney reported that the district will hold another new employee orientation on February 28, 2023 at U'mista Cultural Centre for approximately 20 new staff. This day will include the union representatives and allow time for each union group to meet together.

**HIGH RISK
FIELD TRIPS**

Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney brought forward two high risk field trips:

An elementary school would like to take 50 students to Mt. Washington on February 24.

**MT. WASHINGTON
10/23**

Field/Deane:

That the high risk field trip to Mt. Washington be approved as presented.

CARRIED

A secondary school would like to take 24 students on a one-week (May 8 to 13) high risk field trip to Victoria for a post-secondary tour and to participate in indoor rock climbing and a trampoline park.

**VICTORIA
11/23**

Field/Garrett

That the high risk field trip to Victoria be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**COMMITTEE REPORT-
SCHOOL CALENDAR**

The 2023-2024 School Calendar was sent to the public for feedback. All feedback was reviewed, and the draft school calendar was amended after discussions with both CUPE and VINTA union representatives. The amended draft calendar has been brought forward to the regular meeting for approval. The idea of a issuing a three year calendar again was discussed.

12/23

Field/Deane:

That the 2023-2024 School Calendar be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

BCPSEA

Vice-Chair Field attended BCPSEA AGM and shared discussions that occurred there.

FNEC

Trustee Hunter provided an update on the recent FNEC meeting.

BCSTA

Trustee Hunter reported that Trustee Wishart will be attending in his place for the upcoming Provincial Council meeting.

HEARING OF DELEGATES

No hearing of delegates.

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Field discussed a PAC meeting he was able to attend. He would also like to send an additional letter to the new minister regarding forgiveness of student loans for teachers coming to this district. The letter sent to the former minister over a year ago remains unanswered.

Trustee Garrett shared that he took part in the district's In-Service Day. He was able to spend time with Chief David Knox and learned about traditional cooking methods.

Trustee Wishart shared that he attended a conference for Board Chairs followed by the Ministry Partner Liaison Meeting. He also shared about the school tour earlier in the day.

STUDENT TRUSTEES

No student trustees to report.

DPAC

No DPAC representative to report.

VINTA

VINTA president Jason Voth reported that the mental health of his members is still low. Members need additional counselling time. Communication needs to be professional and transparent from all directions.

CUPE

CUPE representative Jody Welsh confirmed ratification of the new contract by CUPE was complete and wondered when BCPSEA would provide final approval. She concurred with Jason that an increase in counselling time was needed.

QUESTION PERIOD (10 MINUTES MAXIMUM)

A guest asked what plans are in place for recruitment and retention.

Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney reviewed the work being done to recruit and retain teachers in our district.

A guest asked how teachers can apply for positions.

Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney spoke of the 'Make a Future' platform which all BC Schools use for job postings. Applications can also be sent directly to Rena Sweeney via email.

A guest asked if there are going to be any creative options to get more training (i.e. Online training).

Superintendent Christina MacDonald spoke of the different options that the district has reviewed. Our district has been gathering information from northern districts that have programs in place that may work for our district. We will continue to gather more information to see if these kinds of programs could work for our district.

A guest asked what is the school district policy for parent notification when teachers leave classrooms.

Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney spoke about the changes that have been made this semester regarding parent communication, including plans that are in place for classrooms without teachers assigned to them.

A guest commented that the level of communication to parents at one school was not acceptable to them in semester one. They said there has been better communication to parents in semester two and hoped this would continue.

Superintendent Christina MacDonald spoke about working on a pamphlet to communicate more on what our district is doing for recruitment and retention.

Board Chair Leighton Wishart thanked everyone for bring their questions forward.

**ADJOURNMENT
13/23**

Deane:
That the regular meeting of February 13, 2023 be adjourned
(7:10 pm)

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary Treasurer