

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

April 17, 2023  
6:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Leightan Wishart, Chairperson of the Board of Education, at the School Board Office, Port Hardy, and B.C. at 6:00 pm with the following in attendance:

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

Regrets:

Bella Corrigal, Student Trustee

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**WELCOME**

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

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES  
25/23**

Hunter/Deane:  
That the regular meeting minutes of the March 13, 2023 meeting be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**ADDITIONS TO THE  
AGENDA**

Seismic Upgrades / Trustee Prescott / Business Arising

**ADOPTION OF  
AGENDA  
26/23**

Deane/Prescott:  
That the regular agenda be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

**PRESENTATION**

No presentations.

**CORRESPONDENCE** A letter from the Minister of Education regarding the BC Loan Forgiveness Program was received. A letter from the ADM regarding approval of unspent funds was also received.

**DISTRICT REPORTS:**

**SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT**

Superintendent Christina MacDonald reported on events happening around the district such as:

On April 4, 2023 the district was notified it will be receiving \$350 000.00 in each of three years for the Feeding Futures School Foods Program. We will be meeting with partner groups and schools as to how to implement the program.

The community consultation meetings for the renewal of the Enhancement Agreement continue to be well attended by families and students. The Superintendent attended meetings held during March and April and noted that some key themes are starting to emerge. The consultation process will continue until the end of June.

For the upcoming May 5 professional development day, the district has continued to work with local Nations to provide an opportunity for some staff to travel to Ba'as, homelands of the 'Nakwaxda'xw at Blunden Harbour. This is a continuation from the January 3 In-service day for those who signed up to view the documentary, How a People Live.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care's fourth Mental Health in Schools Conference is scheduled for May 2-3, 2023 in Richmond. The district is supporting the attendance of four staff at this conference.

As part of the Ministry Mental Health in Schools Action plan, on the evening of April 12, Principals and Vice Principals met with Joanne Schroeder, Compassionate Systems Leadership facilitator and trainer on three core elements to support well-being of self and others. The intention is that this training provides further tools to help address concerns related to mental health and wellness of staff and students.

**DISBURSEMENTS**

27/23

Field/Garrett:

That the March 2023 disbursement report be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney reported that enrollment in March was 1,245 students, down 24 since September.

**FIELD TRIPS**

Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney brought forward a Sunset Elementary School trip to Nawalakw Cultural Camp in Bond Sound/ Hada for May 15-19; 18 grade 6 students and four chaperones will attend and vessels Miss Chief and Aunty Sally will be used with the Naiad as a backup. Safety and evacuation plans are in place and a high-risk trip meeting for parents is scheduled for April 19.

28/23

Field/Tjepkema:

That the field trip approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

The Assistant Superintendent brought forward information on a Sunset Elementary School trip to Camp Homewood on May 16-19 for 44 grade seven students with 3 employees and 6 parents. The trip will follow set procedures and safety plans used in previous years. Up to 15 grade 5 to 7 students from Sea View School along with a teacher and parent volunteer will be on the same bus. High-risk trip meetings for parents will occur at both schools.

Alert Bay Elementary School will be going on a whale watching trip to Village Island and Johnstone Strait on June 5. This will include all 33 students and school staff (3 teachers and 3 EAs), on the Naiad Explorer. A high risk trip meeting will be held with parents.

**BUSINESS ARISING**

Trustee Prescott brought forward a request that the Board apply for seismic upgrading funding for our schools that have not been upgraded. She noted that some schools in the province were being upgraded. Darby Gildersleeve, Manager of Operations and Maintenance, assured Trustee

Prescott that he applies every year for funding for seismic upgrading.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Prescott brought forward concerns about the lack of advertising for Trustee Elections in her community. Mr. Martin noted that the Board relied on the RDMW for advertising in Area 2 during the last election and that the election rules were followed. However, he stated that the Board and Regional District could provide more information to the community of Port Alice in the next election and recommended that a meeting take place before the next election to ensure the returning officer publishes a separate school district advertisement for the Notice of Nominations.

**TRUSTEE SHARING:**

Vice-Chair Jeff Field shared that a meeting was held for Chairs and Vice Chairs on the topic of dealing with disruptive behaviour at Board meetings. He noted that food programs in the UK are looking at continuing food programs over school breaks. He reported on recent PAC meetings he attended and the four-day work week.

Trustee Prescott shared about PAC meetings she attended and discussed mental health issues and the four-day work week.

**BCPSEA**

Vice-Chair Field noted that information from BCPSEA had been distributed previously.

**FNEC**

Trustee Hunter discussed the upcoming FNEC meeting to be held on May 16, 2023 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the SBO.

**TRUSTEE TOURS**

Trustee Deane shared the highlights of the tours of Port Hardy Secondary School and Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre. Principal Jillian Walkus showed the trustees their new shop expansion, and trustees did an Art Walk and visited students working in their French, Music, and Math classes.

Principal Leah Hubbard of Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre gave the trustees a tour of the school, and they saw students cooking, polishing rocks, and working on various projects in

an alternate learning environment. It was an excellent display of the different ways of learning for students.

**HEARING OF  
DELEGATES**

**STUDENT TRUSTEE**

Student Trustee Bella Corrigan reported on the many clubs and events that are taking place at North Island Secondary School. This includes basketball, golf, soccer, drama, music, fishing, walking, and wall climbing clubs. There is a Wellness committee planning Well “NISS” day for May 18 as well as a Spring Fling school dance in May. There is also breakfast every day for all students and a hot lunch in Pearl and Ida’s room on Thursdays.

**DPAC**

No DPAC Representative

**VINTA**

No VINTA representative

**CUPE**

CUPE President Jody Welch was clear that she and her members do not support a four-day work week.

**QUESTION PERIOD**

No questions,

**ADJOURNMENT  
29/23**

Prescott:  
That the regular meeting of April 17, 2023 be adjourned (6:55pm).

**CARRIED**

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Chairperson of the Board

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Secretary Treasurer