

PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE IN-CAMERA MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 85 (VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH)

September 18, 2023  
3:00 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, B.C. at 3:00 pm with the following in attendance:

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

**APPROVAL OF THE IN-CAMERA MINUTES 51/23**                      Hunter/Deane:  
That the minutes of the in-camera meeting of June 12, 2023 be adopted as circulated.                      **CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES 52/23**                      Hunter/Deane:  
That the public minutes of the in-camera meeting of June 12, 2023 be adopted as circulated.                      **CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF SPECIAL IN-CAMERA MINUTES 53/23**                      Hunter/Deane:  
That the public minutes of the special in-camera meeting of August 22, 2023 be adopted as circulated.                      **CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SPECIAL IN-CAMERA MINUTES 54/23**                      Hunter/Deane:  
That the public minutes of the public special in-camera meeting of August 22, 2023 be adopted as circulated.                      **CARRIED**

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**                      Human Rights Complaint/Christina MacDonald  
Foot Ferry Update/Trustee Hunter

**ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED AGENDA 55/23** Prescott/Deane:  
That the in-camera agenda be adopted as amended. **CARRIED**

**EXCLUDED PRF #6/23 56/23** Deane/Prescott:  
That the Excluded P.R.F. #6/23 be adopted as circulated. **CARRIED**

**BC AGRICULTURE + BC FOODBANKS** Superintendent Christina MacDonald reported that the District has signed up for a pilot project that will provide all of our schools with additional fruit, vegetable, and milk products. Recent studies in northern BC have shown that communities have less referrals to mental health supports when people are provided with consistent, healthy, reliable food. This partnership with the BC Foodbanks and BC Agriculture will work to assess this same theory in our area as a pilot district to this program.

**PIDA TRAINING** Superintendent Christina MacDonald presented the board with the PIDA training video. The District is working to have all employees trained. Revision of this policy has been started by John Martin and will be brought to the Policy Committee meeting in October.

**PRE-EMPLOYMENT SIGNING BONUS** Superintendent Christina MacDonald provided an update on the pre-employment signing bonuses that the district was granted.

**LOCAL TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM UPDATE** Superintendent Christina MacDonald updated the board on the work that has been done on a possible local teacher training program. The District sent out a survey to the community to determine what level of interest exists for such a program and we received 35 responses. We will continue discussions with VIU in hopes of bringing this to our district.

**INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT** Superintendent Christina MacDonald presented a draft of the new SD85 Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement.

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINT** Superintendent Christina MacDonald provided an update regarding a human rights complaint.

**CUPE  
PRF #6/23  
57/23** Deane/Hunter:  
That the CUPE P.R.F. #6/23 be adopted as circulated.  
**CARRIED**

**CUPE  
GRIEVANCES** Secretary Treasurer John Martin reported no new grievances at this time.

**VINTA  
PRF #6/23  
58/23** Field/Hunter:  
That the VINTA P.R.F. #6/23 be adopted as circulated.  
**CARRIED**

**VINTA  
GRIEVANCES** Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney reported one new VINTA grievance at Step 3.

**ENROLLMENT  
REPORTS** Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney reported that the 2023-24 enrollment is currently at 1,246 students which is down 29 students from our projections. We will be working towards adjusting staffing after the 1701 data collection.

**STAFFING UPDATES** Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney reported vacancies of 5.26 FTE. She noted the need for continuity with these positions while we continue to recruit.

**NON-  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
TRANSFER  
REQUESTS** Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney shared three requests from parents to have their children enrolled in a non-neighbourhood school that were received by the deadline. These requests have already been approved as there is enough room at the receiving schools. An additional 11 requests were received after the deadline and Ms. Sweeney supported 10 of those requests.

**59/23** Deane/Field:  
That the parental non-neighbourhood enrollment request for a student to transfer to SES School from SVEJSS School be approved.  
**CARRIED**

**60/23** Deane/Field:  
That the parental non-neighbourhood enrollment request for a student to transfer to FRES School from EVES School be approved.  
**CARRIED**

- 61/23** Deane/Field:  
That the parental non-neighbourhood enrollment request for a student to transfer to CES School from SVEJSS School be approved.  
**CARRIED**
- 62/23** Deane/Field:  
That the parental non-neighbourhood enrollment request for a student to transfer to SES School from SVEJSS School be approved.  
**CARRIED**
- 63/23** Field/Hunter:  
That the parental non-neighbourhood enrollment request for a student to transfer to FRES School from EVES School be approved.  
**CARRIED**
- 64/23** Field/Deane:  
That the parental non-neighbourhood enrollment request for a student to transfer to SES School from SVEJSS School be approved.  
**CARRIED**
- 65/23** Field/Deane:  
That the parental non-neighbourhood enrollment request for a student to transfer to PHSS School from NISS School be approved.  
**CARRIED**
- 66/23** Field/Deane :  
That the parental non-neighbourhood enrollment request for a student to transfer to PHSS School from NISS School be approved.  
**CARRIED**
- 67/23** Field/Deane:  
That the parental non-neighbourhood enrollment request for a student to transfer to FRES School from EVES School be approved.  
**CARRIED**

**68/23**

Field/Deane:

That the parental non-neighbourhood enrollment request for a student to transfer to FRES School from EVES School be approved.

**CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Hunter brought forward parent feedback on the current process for bussing students to the 2:10 pm ferry. This parent expressed their desire to have all students be included in the pickup rather than excluding the senior students.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**69/23**

Prescott:

That the in-camera meeting of September 18, 2023 be adjourned (4:26 pm).

**CARRIED**

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Chairperson of the Board

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Secretary Treasurer