

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

October 16, 2023
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Field, Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Education, at North Island Secondary School, Port McNeill, 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
Carol Prescott, Trustee
Kat Tjepkema, Trustee

Jordyn Smith, Student Trustee
Kylie MacGregor, Student Trustee
Tessa Zimmerman, Student Trustee

WELCOME	Vice-Chair Field opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Kwakwaka'wakw.	
ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA	Field Trip/Rena Sweeney	
ADOPTION OF AGENDA 62/23	Deane/Hunter: That the regular agenda be adopted as amended.	CARRIED
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 63/23	Deane/Tjepkema: That the regular meeting minutes of the September 18, 2023 meeting be approved as circulated.	CARRIED
CORRESPONDENCE	No Correspondence.	

PRESENTATION

District Principal of Indigenous Education Programs Irene Isaac shared the upcoming Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement draft and all the work that went into it. Many community meetings took place to gather feedback and one new goal was adopted.

Ms. Isaac shared many tools and resources to help on the path of reconciliation in our District. She also discussed some of the successful programs that are always in action but not often brought to light such as the Elder in Residence Program, Role Model Program, Kwakwaka Language Programs, and Tutoring Program.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

**SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT**

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

Schools will be participating in the Provincial BC Great Shake Up on Thursday, Oct. 19th. This drill will help students remember what to do in an emergency and is a critical part of making sure staff and students are prepared for the unexpected. This also provides an opportunity for us to review our processes to make sure we are also prepared at the District level.

AJ Elliott will be hosting the annual District Cross Country Track Meet on Wednesday November 8th. Last year it had the largest attendance ever. Thank you to the PAC and staff of AJEES for continuing to host this annual event.

The District Literacy Network had its first meeting in October. All teachers across our system were invited to attend if they chose. This re-energized network will support literacy instruction and pedagogy across our system.

The VINTA Professional Development Committee has organized and invited all educators to participate in three workshops on unpacking the new K-12 assessment performance scale.

Superintendent MacDonald attended the September DPAC meeting and noted some new faces and an almost full executive.

Superintendent MacDonald also attended a VINTAS (Vancouver Island North Training & Attraction Society) meeting on Oct. 5. Tawni Wilkins, area representative for SkilledTradesBC gave a presentation on several grants employers can access to support the hiring of apprentices. VINTAS is also looking for ways to further increase access to trades programs on the North Island.

VINTAS released several videos promoting the North Island, one of which included a local teacher who moved to the area recently and had already received a full-time contract.

Superintendent MacDonald attended the All Superintendents Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 12. There were discussions on the Feeding Futures Initiative, as well as how to support student transitions from K-12 into post-secondary.

The Ministry also shared about the upcoming School-Aged Child Care Demand Parent Survey that will be conducted this November to better understand the regional and provincial demand for school-aged child care. Schools with kindergarten to grade 7 students will be asked to distribute the survey to parents to help inform long-term planning and policy development for child care in B.C.

**DISBURSEMENTS
SEPTEMBER
64/23**

Hunter/Deane:
That the September 2023 disbursement report be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**MINOR CAPITAL
PROJECT
SUBMISSION 2024/25
65/23**

The Board reviewed the list of projects in the 2024-25 Minor Capital Plan Submission totaling \$5,299,500.

Deane/Tjepkema:
That the 2024-25 Minor Capital Plan Submission be approved.

CARRIED

**SUMMER BUILDING
PROJECT UPDATE**

Manager of Operations Darby Gildersleeve provided an update on the building projects that occurred during the summer including asbestos abatement, gymnasium floor replacement, new playground installation, window replacements, carpet replacements, interior and exterior painting, and roof repairs/replacements.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney reported as of September 2023 that district enrollment is currently at 1,268 students, which is up from the start of the school year.

STAFFING UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney provided an update on staffing for the 2023-2024 school year. Teacher vacancies for the district are currently at 4.86 FTE.

**NEW EMPLOYEE
ORIENTATION**

Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney spoke of the District's upcoming New Employee Orientation (NEO). NEO will take place on October 24 in Alert Bay. We have many new employees, and some will be invited to attend the spring NEO to maintain adequate coverage in October.

**HIGH RISK FIELD TRIP
66/23**

Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney brought forward a previously approved field trip request from PHSS to take learners from grade 11 and 12 to Japan. Due to low attendance numbers, PHSS would like to open the trip to grade 10 learners.

Deane/Tjepkema:

That the change to the high-risk field trip for PHSS be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**COMMITTEE POLICY
REPORT**

Vice-Chair Field brought forward a report from the earlier Committee of the Whole: Policy meeting. There were five policies referred to the regular meeting.

67/23

Tjepkema/Prescott:

That PM #5-145 – Video Surveillance receive 2nd reading and be approved for housekeeping amendments.

CARRIED

68/23 Tjepkema/Prescott:
That PM #5-145 – Video Surveillance receive 3rd and final reading and be approved for housekeeping amendments. **CARRIED**

69/23 Tjepkema/Prescott:
That PM 6-50 – Community Use of School Facilities receive 2nd reading and be approved for housekeeping amendments. **CARRIED**

70/23 Tjepkema/Prescott:
That PM 6-50 – Community Use of School Facilities receive 3rd and final reading and be approved for housekeeping amendments. **CARRIED**

71/23 Tjepkema/Prescott:
That PM 4-35 – Non-certified Teacher Replacements be approved for housekeeping amendments. **CARRIED**

72/23 Tjepkema/Prescott:
That PM 4-43 – Public Interest Disclosure be approved for housekeeping amendments. **CARRIED**

73/23 Tjepkema/Prescott:
That PM 1-03 – Trustee Code of Conduct be approved for housekeeping amendments. **CARRIED**

BUSINESS ARISING No business arising.

NEW BUSINESS No new business.

TRUSTEE SHARING:

BCPSEA Vice-Chair Field discussed the upcoming BCPSEA Symposium conference he will attend along with the Superintendent.

Through CLASS, districts pool the costs of matters taken to arbitration. In the past, this has meant that districts with few arbitrations have paid the same amounts as districts with a high number of arbitrations. Starting next year, a new formula will be used which will allow for lower costs for districts with fewer arbitrations, like our District.

FNEC	Trustee Hunter discussed the upcoming October 18 FNEC meeting.
BCSTA	Trustee Hunter will represent the District at the upcoming Provincial Council meeting.
VISTA	Vice-Chair Field discussed the recent VISTA meeting held in Nanaimo.
SCHOOL VISITS	Trustee Tjepkema and Trustee Deane discussed highlights from their recent school visit.
HEARING OF DELEGATES STUDENT TRUSTEES	Student Trustee(s) shared information on upcoming sporting events and preparing for scholarships.
DPAC	No DPAC representative.
VINTA	VINTA President Jason Voth discussed the recently signed joint letter of support for a commitment to ensure a Non-Sexist Environment.
CUPE	No CUPE representative.
QUESTION PERIOD (10 MINUTES MAXIMUM)	<p>A guest asked how long it would take to have approved policies updated on the district's website. The Vice-Chair confirmed that the website is updated in a timely manner.</p> <p>A guest asked where they could review the Non-Certified Teacher Replacements policy. The Superintendent confirmed it is currently within our District policy manual and the amended policy will be available shortly.</p>
ADJOURNMENT 74/23	Prescott: That the regular meeting of October 16, 2023 be adjourned (7:11 pm).

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary Treasurer