

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

February 12, 2024
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, B.C. at 6:00 pm with the following in attendance:

Leightan Wishart, Chair
Jeff Field, Vice-Chair
Janet Deane, Trustee
Kat Tjepkema, Trustee
Eric Hunter, Trustee
Carol Prescott, Trustee
Tessa Zimmerman, Student Trustee
Kylie MacGregor, Student Trustee

Regrets: Lawrie Garrett

Guests: Jason Voth
Ben Donoghue
Darby Gildersleeve
Jody Welch

WELCOME

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

**COMMITTEE
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairperson Wishart reviewed the remaining committee appointments for 2023-2024.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
1/24**

Hunter/Prescott:
That the regular meeting minutes of the December 11, 2023 meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

Non-Neighbourhood Transfer Request/ Rena Sweeney

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
2/24**

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

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence was received from BCSTA regarding on the top three advocacy priorities.

PRESENTATION NISS Vice Principal Ben Donoghue provided a presentation on the school's cell-phone free zones. Approximately 50% of NISS students self-reported that they would like to improve their focus. The cell-phone free zones are maintained during instructional time and include classrooms, hallways, restrooms, and common meeting spaces. Students are asked to either leave their cell phone or device at home, or keep their cell phone turned off or in their locker or bag during instructional time. Students are still able to use their phones before and after school as well as during lunch.

Staff have reported positive feedback. The NISS team looks forward to their next WellNISS survey to compare how students feel with this new policy in place vs. the initial survey.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

**SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT**

Superintendent Christina MacDonald reported on events happening around the district such as the return from winter break and recent animal sightings. All districts will need to have a policy in place by September 2024 around cell phones in schools. We hope to have guidelines from the Ministry sometime after Spring Break this year. The Board will then work to create a policy which will be circulated for feedback before being approved by the required September date.

Online safety is an ongoing topic around the district and with the Ministry of Education. We continue to have the support of *Safer Schools Together* for our students and families. The recent DPAC meeting was well attended, and the increase in food programs in our schools was noted.

The recent FNESC gathering centered on adult graduation rates, alternative education initiatives, transportation agreements, recruitment and retention of Indigenous educators, and graduation requirements in Indigenous education.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE 2024-2025 3/24	Superintendent Christina MacDonald presented the 2024-25 Draft Board Meeting Schedule. Tjepkema/Prescott: That the 2024-25 Board Meeting Schedule be approved with one amendment to a school visit time.	CARRIED
DISBURSEMENTS DECEMBER 4/24	Field/Prescott: That the December 2023 disbursements report be approved as circulated.	CARRIED
DISBURSEMENTS JANUARY 5/24	Field/Prescott: That the January 2024 disbursements report be approved as circulated.	CARRIED
AMENDED 2023-2024 BUDGET BYLAW 6/24	Secretary Treasurer John Martin presented the 2023-24 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw. Trustees unanimously agreed to give the bylaw all three readings at this time. Field/Prescott: That the 2023-24 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw receive first reading.	CARRIED
7/24	Field/Prescott: That the 2023-24 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw receive second reading.	CARRIED
8/24	Field/Prescott: That the 2023-24 Amended Annual Budget Bylaw receive third and final reading.	CARRIED
ENROLLMENT REPORT	Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney reported district enrollment as of January 2024 is 1,273 students which is up seven students from last month.	
STAFFING UPDATE	Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney provided an update on staffing for the 2023-2024 school year. Vacancies for the district are currently at 5.0 FTE.	

NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION	Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney spoke of the District's upcoming New Employee Orientation tentatively set for February 28 th .
DRAFT SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024-2025	Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney presented the draft school calendar which will be circulated for feedback in February and brought forward to the March Board meeting.
IN-SERVICE DAY JANUARY 8, 2024	Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney spoke of the recent In-service day on January 8, 2024. Many training options were available including CPI Training, MyEd Gradebook training, and language and culture explorations.
HIGH RISK FIELD TRIPS	Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney brought forward one high risk field trip for board approval and three for informational purposes only.
9/24	Sunset Elementary School would like to take 50 students and 4 chaperons to Mt Washington on Feb 23, 2024. The field trip plan is in line with the high risk requirements. Field/Tjepkema: That the SES high risk field trip to Mt. Washington be approved as presented.
	CARRIED
COMMUNITY OUTREACH MANAGER	Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney provided an update on the recently filled position of Community Outreach Manager.
NON-NEIGHBOURHOOD TRANSFER REQUEST	Rena sweeney brought forward one non-neighbourhood transfer request. The transfer is being requested for support needs and there is room available in the requested school.
10/24	Field/Tjepkema: That the Board approve the non-neighbourhood transfer request as requested.
	CARRIED
BUSINESS ARISING	No business arising.

NEW BUSINESS No new business.

TRUSTEE SHARING:

BCPSEA Vice-Chair Field spoke on the BCPSEA AGM in January.

FNEC Trustee Hunter discussed the new Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement for the period 2023-2028.

BCSTA Trustee Hunter will represent district at the upcoming Provincial Council meeting.

Chair Wishart discussed the Partner Liaison meeting he recently attended with the Superintendent and Secretary Treasurer. Artificial intelligence was a major topic on the agenda.

Many Trustees discussed their School visit ahead of the Board meeting, emphasizing the highlights of the students' dance performance and the student-led tour of the school.

HEARING OF DELEGATES

STUDENT TRUSTEES Student Trustees shared information about graduation fundraisers happening around their school, including hotdog sales and sport events.

DPAC No DPAC representative.

VINTA VINTA President Jason Voth discussed the upcoming teacher bargaining and what he would like to see as focuses for this next round. He also discussed the transition to semester two in the high schools.

CUPE CUPE President Jody Welch discussed her recent re-election and her proactive stance on transportation bookings to uphold organizational efficiency.

QUESTION PERIOD (10 MINUTES MAXIMUM) No questions.

ADJOURNMENT
11/24

Prescott:

That the regular meeting of February 12, 2024 be adjourned
(7:31 pm).

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary Treasurer