

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

December 11, 2023  
6:00 PM

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Christina MacDonald, Superintendent of School District 85, 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  
Kylie MacGregor, Student Trustee

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**NOMINATION OF  
BOARD CHAIR**

Superintendent Christina MacDonald called for nominations for Board Chair for the next year. Trustee Prescott nominated Trustee Wishart for Board Chair, who stated a willingness to accept the position if elected. There were no further nominations. Trustee Wishart was acclaimed as Board Chair. Chairperson Leightan Wishart assumed the Chair.

**WELCOME**

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

**ELECTION OF THE  
VICE-CHAIR**

Chair Leightan Wishart called for nominations for Board Vice-Chair. Trustee Prescott nominated Trustee Field for Board Vice-Chair, who stated a willingness to accept the position if elected. There were no further nominations. Trustee Field was acclaimed as Board Vice-Chair for the next year.

**ELECTION OF BCSTA  
PROVINCIAL  
COUNCIL  
AND ALTERNATE**

Chair Wishart called for nominations for the BCSTA Provincial Council and Alternate. Trustee Prescott nominated Trustee Hunter who stated a willingness to accept the position if

elected. There were no other nominations and Trustee Hunter was acclaimed as BCSTA Provincial Councilor for 2023.

Trustee Prescott nominated Trustee Deane for the BCSTA Provincial Council Alternate, who stated a willingness to accept the position if elected. There were no other nominations and Trustee Deane was acclaimed as BCSTA Provincial Council Alternate for 2023.

**ELECTION OF BCPSEA REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE**

Chair Wishart called for nominations for BCPSEA Representative and Alternate. Trustee Hunter nominated Trustee Field who stated a willingness to accept the position if elected. There were no other nominations and Trustee Field was acclaimed as BCPSEA Representative for 2023.

Trustee Prescott nominated Trustee Tjepkema for the BCPSEA Alternate, who stated a willingness to accept the position if elected. There were no other nominations and Tjepkema was acclaimed as BCPSEA Alternate for 2023.

**ELECTION OF FNEC REPRESENTATIVES (2) AND ALTERNATE (2)**

Chair Wishart called for nominations for two FNEC Representatives and two FNEC Alternates. Trustee Field nominated Trustee Hunter as FNEC Representative, who stated a willingness to accept the position if elected. Trustee Hunter nominated Trustee Prescott as FNEC Representative, who stated a willingness to accept the position if elected. There were no further nominations and Trustee Hunter and Trustee Prescott were acclaimed as FNEC Representatives for 2023.

Trustee Prescott nominated Trustee Wishart as FNEC Alternate, who stated a willingness to accept the position if elected. Trustee Prescott nominated Trustee Garrett as FNEC Alternate, who stated a willingness to accept the position if elected. There were no further nominations and Trustee Wishart and Trustee Garrett were acclaimed as FNEC Alternate Representatives for 2023.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES 80/23**

Hunter/Deane:  
That the regular meeting minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**ADDITIONS TO THE  
AGENDA**

No additions.

**ADOPTION OF  
AGENDA  
81/23**

Tjepkema/Garrett:  
That the regular agenda be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

No Correspondence.

**PRESENTATION:  
SCHOOL FOOD  
COORDINATOR**

School Food Coordinator Anne Kashty provided a presentation on the Foods programs in the district currently and ongoing work to move into the next stage.

**PHSS HADA**

PHSS Vice-Principal Anna Cunningham, FNSW Leslie Taylor-Child and students shared about their recent trip to Nawalakw camp in Hada.

**DISTRICT REPORTS:  
SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT**

Superintendent Christina MacDonald reported on events happening around the district such as the second district literacy network meeting. Educators came from SD72 to collaborate on several literacy topics.

Christina reviewed all the holiday events upcoming around the district.

The District has submitted a second application for pre-employment bonuses which we hope will help bring more new staff to the district, as we continue to close the gap in our district's teaching vacancies.

**DISBURSEMENTS  
NOVEMBER 2023  
82/23**

Wishart/Garrett:  
That the November 2023 disbursement report be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**ENROLLMENT REPORT**

Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney reported district enrollment is at 1,266 as of November 2023, 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. Vacancies for the district are currently at 5.14 FTE.

**PROVINCIAL OUTREACH VISIT** Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney spoke of the recent visit from the Provincial School Outreach program. It is committed to providing a team of specialists to rural and remote districts, to provide supports that may take longer to obtain otherwise. Services to our students will begin in 2024.

**HIGH RISK FIELD TRIP** Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney brought forward a high risk field trip request from PHSS to take 10 students and 2 chaperones to the Quatsino Lodge. This request is higher risk due to marine transportation and remote location. The transportation vessels are certified and have qualified staff. Emergency and evacuation plans are also in place.

**83/23**

Garrett/Hunter:

That the Board approve the Quatsino Lodge trip, subject to adherence to all board policies, including providing appropriate accommodation with gender segregation.

**CARRIED**

Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney brought forward a number of other field trip requests to Hada and Mt. Cain. As these types of high risk trips have the Boards pre-approval, they were shared for information only.

**UBC PRACTICUM STUDENTS** Assistant Superintendent Rena Sweeney discussed the current structure for the UBC Practicum program. She asked the Board about continuing with this program structure. Some suggestions to improve the program were discussed.

**COMMITTEE POLICY REPORT** Vice-Chair Field brought forward a report from the earlier Committee of the Whole: Policy meeting. There were seven items referred to the regular meeting. As the policy amendments are housekeeping in nature and there was general agreement, the board moved one motion to approval all changes.

**POLICY  
CHANGES  
84/23**

Tjepkema/Wishart:  
That the following policies be approved as housekeeping changes:  
PM 2-340 Student Transportation  
PM 2-70 Course Challenge  
PM 4-42R – Standards of Conduct for Employees  
PM 4-80 – Respectful Workplace  
PM 4-90 -Employee-Student Relationships and Communications  
PM 5-100 – Race Relations  
PM 5-165 – Employee and Visitor Identification Badges

**CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING**

No business arising.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

**TRUSTEE SHARING:  
BCPSEA**

Vice-Chair Field discussed the upcoming AGM that he will attend via zoom.

**FNEC**

Trustee Hunter discussed the recent FNEC meeting, which was well attended. The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2024 at 11:00 am.

**BCSTA**

Trustee Hunter discussed the recent BCSTA Trustee Academy meeting that the Trustees attended in person.

**SCHOOL VISIT**

Vice-Chair Field discussed the earlier school visit to A.J. Elliott School. He noted how informative these visits are for the Board.

**HEARING OF  
DELEGATES**

**STUDENT TRUSTEES**

A Student Trustee shared information on activities happening around NISS including a recent career fair field trip, sports teams, and a foodbank donation drive.

**DPAC**

No DPAC representative.

**VINTA**

No VINTA representative.

**CUPE** No CUPE representative.

**QUESTION PERIOD  
(10 MINUTES  
MAXIMUM)** No questions.

**ADJOURNMENT  
85/23** Prescott:  
That the regular meeting of September 18, 2023 be  
adjourned (7:16 pm).

**CARRIED**

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Chairperson of the Board

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Secretary Treasurer