

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

March 11, 2024
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Leightan Wishart, 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	Regrets: Lawrie Garrett, Trustee
Jeff Field, Vice-Chair	Carol Prescott, Trustee
Janet Deane, Trustee (by Zoom)	
Eric Hunter, Trustee	Guests: Jason Voth
Kat Tjepkema, Trustee	Jill Cook
Kylie MacGregor, Student Trustee	
Tessa Zimmerman, Student Trustee	

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 12/24 Hunter/Tjepkema:
That the regular meeting minutes of the February 12, 2024 meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA Christina MacDonald/Field Trips

ADOPTION OF AGENDA 13/24 Hunter/Deane:
That the regular agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE No Correspondence.

PRESENTATION District Principal of Early Learning and Child Care Jill Cook shared the latest developments in early learning initiatives across the district including the grand opening of the Alert

Bay Strong Start program, after school programs in three communities, professional development, and partnerships.

DISTRICT REPORTS:

**SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT**

Superintendent Christina MacDonald reported on events happening around the district such as a significant presentation made to the Vancouver Island School Trustees Association (VISTA), which featured the participation of over thirty students from SD85.

Staff and students traveled to Parksville to showcase the exceptional work being done in the District in the realm of Indigenous Education. This presentation was attended by eighty trustees from various districts on Vancouver Island, all of whom provided glowing feedback and commendations.

We would like to express our gratitude to BC Ferries for its assistance in holding the Alert Bay ferry for the staff and students on their journey back home. Due to inclement weather conditions, the bus was running slightly behind schedule, and the cooperation of the ferry crew ensured a smooth and timely return home for all involved.

The District Science Fair is scheduled to take place at the Port Hardy Civic Center on April 24 and 25. Trustees are invited to participate as judges in this engaging and inspiring event.

The Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement committee has set a new signing date of April 30, 2024. This rescheduled event will now take place in the Fort Rupert Bighouse.

The district is compiling a list of events around our communities occurring over spring break. This will be shared in the upcoming Indigenous Education newsletter.

The Ministry of Education has announced a replenishment of affordability funds for school districts next year. Additionally, it has pledged to expand the Community Outreach

program, aiming to provide further support to rural and remote districts like ours.

**AMENDED BOARD
MEETING CALENDAR
2023-2024**

Superintendent Christina MacDonald provided an update on the amended Board Meeting Calendar to reschedule a postponed school visit to Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre.

**DISBURSEMENTS
FEBRUARY
14/24**

Field/Tjepkema:
That the February 2024 disbursement report be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**ENROLLMENT
PROJECTIONS 2024-
2025**

Secretary Treasurer John Martin discussed the projected enrollment numbers for September 2024.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Superintendent Christina MacDonald reported district enrollment as of February 2024 is 1,246 students which is down twenty seven students from last month.

STAFFING UPDATE

Superintendent Christina MacDonald provided an update on teacher staffing for the 2023-2024 school year. Vacancies for the district are currently at 4.57 FTE positions.

**NEW EMPLOYEE
ORIENTATION**

Superintendent Christina MacDonald noted the District's upcoming New Employee Orientation is rescheduled for April 3, 2024 at the Quatse Hatchery.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR
2024-2025**

The 2024-2025 School Calendar was sent to the public for feedback. All feedback was reviewed.

15/24

Tjepkema/Deane:
That the 2024-2025 School Calendar be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

FIELD TRIPS

Superintendent Christina MacDonald discussed four field trips for information only. Three schools will be visiting Camp Homewood and PHSS's previously approved Japan trip will be commencing soon, with slightly fewer students.

BUSINESS ARISING No business arising.

NEW BUSINESS No new business.

TRUSTEE SHARING:

BCPSEA Vice-Chair Field discussed the report provided by a director at the VISTA meeting. Trustee Field also discussed the recent school visit and some highlights from this visit.

BCSTA Trustee Hunter attended the recent Provincial Council meeting on March 7, 2024. BCSTA noted a savings of \$75,000 by continuing to hold virtual meetings.

Chair Wishart discussed the school visits and some highlights from the visits.

HEARING OF DELEGATES

STUDENT TRUSTEES Student Trustee(s) presented updates on recent musical performances at NISS, as well as provided information regarding the girls' soccer team, boys' golf team, graduation fundraisers, and outlined plans for the graduating class to tour the elementary schools.

DPAC No DPAC representative.

VINTA VINTA President Jason Voth discussed his staffing wishes for September. He announced that he will not be stepping up for re-election in the next VINTA election. He looks forward to finishing his career back in the classroom.

CUPE No CUPE representative.

QUESTION PERIOD (10 MINUTES MAXIMUM) No questions.

ADJOURNMENT
16/24

Tjepkema:

That the regular meeting of March 11, 2024 be adjourned
(6:50 pm).

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary Treasurer