

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

April 14, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Leighton Wishart, Chairperson of the Board of Education, at the School Board Office, Port Hardy, B.C. at 6:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Jeff Field, Trustee
Lawrie Garrett, Trustee
Eric Hunter, Trustee
Carol Prescott, Trustee
Danita Schmidt, Trustee

Absent: Werner Manke, Trustee

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
27/14**

Field/Garrett:
That the minutes of the March 10, 2014 meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

No Additions

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
28/14**

Schmidt/Hunter:
That the agenda be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

**EVES DRAGON BOAT
PRESENTATION**

Eagle View teacher Sean Barfoot, Kwak'wala Language-Culture Worker Harold Nelson, First Nations Connections Worker Stephanie Nelson, and Triport Dragon Boating Association Representative Cora Nelson presented on Dragon Boating and how it can be used to build relationships between students and the land as well as integrate curriculums in Physical Education, Social Studies, and Cultural Programs. The presenters each shared their passion for the activity and requested the Board approve a series of Dragon Boating activities for Eagle View students in grades 5 to 7.

CORRESPONDENCE

Board Chair Wishart shared an email approving the District 2014-2015 School Calendar submission. He also shared three letters regarding Trustee electoral areas: one from the Minister, one from the Village of Port Alice, and one from the Village of Alert Bay.

**EVES DRAGON BOAT
PROPOSAL**

Trustees agreed that the Eagle View Dragon Boat activities proposal would need additional information before it could receive Board approval. Superintendent Scott Benwell recommended the following:

- That a map of the area to be paddled be provided;
- That the activity be revised for a May to June timeframe, with a further review for September if the activity is successful;
- That the high risk waiver form be edited and resubmitted for review before it is given to parents. Edits would include: simple reference to "CSA approved life jackets", the use of the most current

approved waiver form, and clarification around “weather dependent” and the person determining that decision;
- That the local Coast Guard be put on stand-by while the students are on the water.

29/30

Field/Garrett:

That the Dragon Boat activities for Eagle View Elementary students in grades 5 to 7 be approved on condition that all of the recommendations of the Superintendent and all of the safety protocols outlined in the Dragon Boat Canada Safety Guidelines are met prior to seeking parent approval.

CARRIED

REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

Dr. Benwell was pleased to announce that the Regional Science Fair was a tremendous success. He will be sending a letter of appreciation to NISS Vice-Principal Rena Sweeney for all of her hard work and dedication in organizing the event.

BCSSA SPRING FORUM

Dr. Benwell reported on the recent BCSSA Spring Forum that he attended and was impressed with Ron Burger’s keynote address on “Character and Citizenship”.

**EKE ME-XI FIELD TRIPS
30/14**

Field/Prescott:

That the Eke Me-Xi field trips to Smith Inlet on May 9th, Blunden Harbour on May 16th, and the Deserter Group Islands on May 23rd, be approved.

CARRIED

**DISBURSEMENTS
MAR. 2014
31/14**

Hunter/Schmidt::

That the March 2014 disbursement statements be approved.

CARRIED

PHSS SCHOOL FEE

Hunter/Schmidt:

That the Port Hardy Secondary School guitar rental fee of \$60 for the 2014-2015 school year be approved.

CARRIED

CAPITAL PROJECT BYLAW

Mr. Martin presented the Board with Capital Project Bylaw No. 126794 for the use of Annual Facility Grant Funding. It was unanimously agreed to by all trustees that the bylaw would receive all 3 readings at this time.

32/14

Schmidt/Prescott:

That the Capital Project Bylaw No. 126794 receive 1st reading.

CARRIED

33/14

Schmidt/Prescott:

That the Capital Project Bylaw No. 126794 receive 2nd reading.

CARRIED

- 34/14** Schmidt/Prescott:
That the Capital Project Bylaw No. 126794 receive 3rd reading.
CARRIED
- POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT** Trustees Field reported on Bill McCormick’s presentation on the development of a policy to preserve historical heritage.
- 35/14** Field/Hunter:
That PM 5-160+ Non-Discrimination receive 3rd reading.
CARRIED
- 36/14** Field/Schmidt:
That PM 1-02 Strategic Direction be amended to reflect the current Strategic Plan approved by the Board October 21, 2013.
CARRIED
- Trustee Field reported that a motion was passed at the policy meeting that a committee be formed of partner groups and District staff to draft new language around hospital and homebound student provisions, and that this new language be brought to the next policy committee for consideration.
- TRUSTEE ELECTORAL AREAS** Chairperson Wishart thanked the Board, community members, Municipalities and First Nations Councils for their input during the Trustee Electoral Areas consultation process. He reminded everyone that the process was implemented to ensure trustee representation was fair by population in accordance with Ministry variance guidelines and the premise of one person, one vote. Chairperson Wishart announced that the new Board approved electoral areas have now been approved by the Ministry.
- OPENSTUDENT** Chairperson Wishart shared a letter of disappointment to be sent to the Minister regarding the termination of openStudent.
- 2014/15 BUDGET** Mr. Martin reminded trustees of the need to find \$340,000 in savings within next year’s budget due to loss of funding protection and increased cost pressures. Mr. Marin reported that no VINTA members should be left on the recall list at the end of the staffing process for next year.
- 37/14** Prescott/Garrett:
That the budget plan recommended by the senior staff at the March 10th public Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.
CARRIED
- TRUSTEE MILEAGE/TRAVEL EXPENSES** Trustee Prescott asked if provisions would be put in place for expenses incurred for trustee visits to communities that may not have local representation within the new Trustee Electoral Areas. Mr. Martin clarified that this provision was already in place.

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Field enjoyed the “hobbit huts” that the students shared with trustees at Woss. He was a judge at the Fort Rupert and District Science Fairs and spoke to the careers class at PHSS.

Trustee Prescott was impressed by the computer program being used at Woss School to enhance reading. She recently visited Eke Me-Xi where she shared some of her Ukrainian heritage by painting eggs with students. She looks forward to attending the District STEM Challenge at Sea View on April 15th.

Chairperson Wishart was impressed with how well behaved the Woss students were and the use of the reading program Raz Kids.

Trustee Hunter announced he will be attending the Provincial Council meeting on April 24th.

Trustee Garrett shared that the Misssoula Children’s Theatre Company, sponsored by A.J. Elliott PAC, recently visited the school and produced the student musical “Black Beard”. All of the students participated and everyone had a great time.

BCSTA

Mr. Martin will be attending the upcoming BCSTA AGM with Trustees. Dr. Benwell will no longer be attending, choosing instead to remain in District.

**DPAC
REPRESENTATIVE**

No DPAC representative.

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

VINTA President Fred Robertson stated there is ongoing concern across the District regarding the loss of teaching positions and the District Resource Centre. He stated how hard it was for employees to live with cuts year after year. He also stated that ongoing reduction in funding will result in fewer services to students, but that there are still lots of positive things happening in schools.

He announced that the Aboriginal Education VINTA Rep is Teresa Wadhams and that the North Island UVic Masters Cohort would be winding up with a celebration and the presentation of projects on April 26th.

Mr. Robertson thanked Katherine McIntosh for all of her work and wished her all the best in her new position.

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE**

CUPE Local 401 2nd Vice-President Eleonora Brown expressed CUPE’s concerns with job loss and the loss of the Resource Centre but was pleased to hear that resources would go to schools. She was pleased that CUPE and the District could continue to work together to find innovative ways to continue to provide services.

ADJOURNMENT

Schmidt:

37/14

That the regular meeting of April 14, 2014 be adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer