

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

December 8, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by John Martin, Secretary-Treasurer, at the School Board Office, Port Hardy, B.C. at 5:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Jeff Field, Trustee
Eric Hunter, Trustee
Werner Manke, Trustee
Carol Prescott, Trustee
Danita Schmidt, Trustee
Lyn Skrlac, Trustee
Leightan Wishart, Trustee

WELCOME

Mr. John Martin, Secretary-Treasurer, welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the Board of Education and opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Kwakiutl First Nation and the Kwak'waka speaking peoples.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Martin Administered the Oath of Office to each Trustee.

**ELECTION OF BOARD
CHAIRPERSON**

Mr. Martin called for nominations for the position of Chairperson for 2015.

Trustee Skrlac nominated Trustee Wishart for the position of Chairperson of the Board. Hearing no other nominations, Trustee Wishart was declared Chairperson of the Board for 2015.

**ELECTION OF BOARD
VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson Wishart called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson for 2015.

Trustee Manke nominated Trustee Field for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Trustee Prescott nominated Trustee Schmidt for the position. Trustee Field was elected Vice-Chairperson for 2015 by ballot.

**ELECTIONS OF
BCSTA PROVINCIAL
COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE**

Chairperson Wishart called for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Council Representative for 2015.

Trustee Field nominated Trustee Hunter for the position of BCSTA Council Representative. Hearing no other nominations, Trustee Hunter was declared BCSTA Provincial Council Representative for 2015.

**ELECTION OF BCSTA
PROVINCIAL
COUNCIL
ALTERNATE**

Chairperson Wishart called for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Council Alternate for 2015.

Trustee Field nominated Trustee Manke for the position of BCSTA Council Alternate. Hearing no other nominations, Trustee Manke was declared BCSTA Provincial Council Alternate for 2015.

**ELECTION OF
BCPSEA
REPRESENTATIVE**

Chairperson Wishart called for nominations for the position of BCPSEA Representative for 2015.

Trustee Schmidt nominated Trustee Prescott for the position of BCSPEA Representative for 2015. Trustee Prescott declared herself in conflict and declined the nomination. Trustee Hunter nominated Trustee Field for the position of BCSPEA Representative for 2015. Hearing no other nominations, Trustee Field was elected BCPSEA Representative for 2015.

**ELECTION OF
BCPSEA ALTERNATE
REP**

Chairperson Wishart called for nominations for the position of BCPSEA Representative Alternate for 2015.

Trustee Prescott nominated Trustee Schmidt for the position of BCPSEA Rep. Alternate for 2015. Trustee Field nominated Trustee Wishart for the position of BCPSEA Alternate Rep. for 2015. Trustee Wishart was elected BCPSEA Rep. Alternate for 2015 by ballot.

72/14

Field/Manke:

That the ballots for the election of Vice-Chair and BCPSEA Representative Alternate for 2015 be destroyed.

CARRIED

Chairperson Wishart stated that Committees appointments will be settled at the next regular meeting of the Board.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
73/14**

Skrlac/Manke:

That the minutes of the November 10, 2014 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

No additions to the agenda. An amendment was made to the agenda to correct the date of the November 10, 2014 regular meeting minutes.

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
74/14**

Schmidt/Manke:

That the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

**PHSS TRACK
SIGNAGE**

Manager of Operations and Maintenance Darby Gildersleeve provided examples of track etiquette signage from other Districts to address a concern from a community member regarding public use of the Port Hardy Secondary School track.

Trustees agreed that signage was necessary. They also agreed that the signage should state that absolutely no dogs are permitted on the track and that all dogs on school property must be on a leash.

75/14

Skrlac/Schmidt:

That appropriate signage for track etiquette be posted at both high school tracks.

CARRIED

Mr. Gildersleeve will ensure that the appropriate signage will be posted. Mr. Martin will write a letter to Adrianna Pritchard to let her know this is being done.

DISTRICT CLASS SIZE AVERAGES

Assistant Superintendent Carol Robertson reported that District class size averages are lower than the Provincial class size averages at all levels.

PISA

Ms. Robertson reported that North Island Secondary School was selected to participate in this year's Program for International Student Assessment. Ms. Robertson explained that participation for selected schools is mandated by the School Act.

DISBURSEMENTS NOVEMBER 2014

Field/Schmidt::

That the November 2014 disbursement statements be approved.

CARRIED

BCSSA/BCASBO FALL CONFERENCE

Mr. Martin reported on the BCSSA and BCASBO Fall conference that he attended in November along with Superintendent Scott Benwell and a team of District Administrators.

HIGH SCHOOL TIMETABLE/BLOCK SCHEDULE

Trustee Schmidt stated that a year has passed since the implementation of the new timetable at both high schools and requested that a formal review be done to include staff, students, community members, and parents. She asked that the review focus on the inquiry model questions "Where are we going?", "How are we doing?", and "Where to next?"

Ms. Robertson reported that administrators at both high schools are optimistic that the connected classrooms project will be implemented next semester. She explained that the delay has been attributed to equipment setup taking longer than anticipated as well as a disruptive start to the school year.

Senior Management will follow up with the evaluation of the block schedule and implementation of connected classrooms at the February Board meeting.

TRAVEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Mr. Martin reminded trustees that travel allowances are in place for Trustees to visit any of the schools in the District. He will have accounting staff provide Trustees Prescott and Hunter with BC Ferries Experience cards to save money on ferry travel within their electoral area.

**SCHOLARSHIP
COMMITTEE**

Trustees agreed to meet prior to the formation of the District Scholarship Selection Committee in May to determine guidelines for the selection process of the District/Authority Award Scholarships.

**STUDENT
ATTENDANCE AT
MEETINGS**

Trustee Prescott suggested that student involvement would be appreciated at the Board meetings. The Chair will extend an invitation to PHSS, NISS and Eke Me-Xi student councils to attend Committee of the Whole meetings and potentially regular Board meetings with delegate status.

**COMMITTEE
SELECTION FOR
TRUSTEES**

Trustee Schmidt asked the Chair to consider the benefits of the continuity of committee representation, specifically appointments to the FNEC committee. She also requested that since there are two trustee reps who sit on the FNEC committee, there should also be two alternate trustee reps. The Chair agreed and re-appointed Trustee Schmidt, Trustee Field and Trustee Prescott (alternate) to the FNEC committee. He appointed himself as the second alternate.

CHILD POVERTY

Trustee Manke reminded trustees that child poverty is still an issue in this country and asked that the topic be brought to a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

BCPSEA

Trustee Field will be attending the BCPSEA AGM in January. He expressed his concern that the AGM agenda indicates that elections will not be held for a Board of Directors.

76/14

Field/Skrlac:

That the Board write a letter to the Minister expressing the Board's concern with the current governance structure of the British Columbia Public School Employers Association (BCPSEA).

CARRIED

BCSTA

Trustee Hunter enjoyed the Trustee academy and Joe Clark's key note address. He will be attending the Provincial Council meeting in February. He also enjoyed the school visit to Sunset and the student ushers as well as the formal Sunset and Cheslakes school plan presentations.

FNEC

Trustee Prescott reported on the November FNEC meeting. The meeting focused on ongoing awareness of bullying, racism, drug and alcohol related issues, and student homelessness. Future meeting dates have been set for February 19, April 14, and June 9.

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Prescott visited A.J. Elliott School with Trustee Hunter and received a very warm reception there. She was excited to talk about the use of digital portfolios that are being introduced both at A.J. Elliott and Sea View Schools.

Trustee Schmidt enjoyed the Academy and was able to take part in some of the FNEC conference as well. She attended lunch at the

conference and was happy to share that the North Island was well represented when called upon to do the Feast Song.

Trustee Manke was pleased to hear that the District class size averages were lower than average, increasing the opportunity for individualized instruction.

Chairperson Wishart congratulated fellow trustees on their re-election to the Board and welcomed Trustee Skrlac. He enjoyed sessions at the Academy that focused on running board meetings and community involvement. He highlighted the many successes happening in our district including an Aboriginal student six-year completion rate that is well above the provincial average.

**DPAC
REPRESENTATIVE
VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

No DPAC representative.

VINTA President Shawn Gough congratulated trustees for their election to the Board and encouraged them to actively visit their school communities.

He supported the review of the high school timetable and suggested that the “superblock” is not always being used the way it was planned for.

He felt that an invitation to students for representation at the Board table was a positive move and stated that both PHSS and NISS have active student councils. He also suggested that a trustee representative would be welcome to sit on the Joint Pro-D and District Health & Safety committees.

He cautioned trustees that class size averages are just averages and are not representative of the District’s larger schools, and that continued work is required to get all class sizes down.

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE**

No CUPE representative.

**ADJOURNMENT
77/14**

Schmidt:
That the regular meeting of December 8, 2014 be adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer