

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

December 5, 2011

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by John Martin, Secretary-Treasurer, at the School Board Office, Port Hardy, B.C. at 6:30 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Jeff Field, Trustee
Lawrie Garrett, Trustee
Eric Hunter, Trustee
Werner Manke, Trustee
Carol Prescott, Trustee
Danita Schmidt, Trustee
Leightan Wishart, Trustee

**ELECTION OF BOARD
CHAIRPERSON**

Mr. John Martin, Secretary-Treasurer, welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the Board of Education.

Mr. Martin called for nominations for the position of Chairperson for 2012.

Trustee Prescott nominated Trustee Wishart for the position of Chairperson of the Board. Hearing no other nominations, Trustee Wishart was declared Chairperson of the Board for 2012.

**ELECTION OF BOARD
VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson Wishart called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson for 2012.

Trustee Manke nominated Trustee Field for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Hearing no other nominations, Trustee Field was declared Vice-Chairperson of the Board for 2012.

**ELECTIONS OF
BCSTA PROVINCIAL
COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE**

Chairperson Wishart called for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Council Representative for 2012.

Trustee Manke nominated Trustee Hunter for the position of BCSTA Council Representative. Hearing no other nominations, Trustee Hunter was declared BCSTA Provincial Council Representative for 2012.

**ELECTION OF BCSTA
PROVINCIAL
COUNCIL
ALTERNATE**

Chairperson Wishart called for nominations for the position of BCSTA Provincial Council Alternate for 2012.

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 2012.

**ELECTION OF
BCPSEA**

Chairperson Wishart called for nominations for the position of BCPSEA Representative for 2012.

REPRESENTATIVE Trustee Hunter nominated Trustee Field for the position of BCSPEA Representative for 2012. Trustee Prescott nominated Trustee Wishart for the position of BCSPEA Representative for 2012.

Trustee Field was elected BCPSEA Representative for 2012 by ballot.

88/11

Field/Manke:

That the ballots for the position of BCPSEA Representative for 2012 be destroyed.

CARRIED

**ELECTION OF CUPE
NEGOTIATIONS
REPRESENTATIVE**

Chairperson Wishart called for nominations for the position of CUPE Negotiations representative for 2012.

Trustee Field nominated Trustee Manke for the position of CUPE Negotiations Representative. Hearing no other nominations, Trustee Manke was declared CUPE Negotiations Representative for 2012.

**ELECTION OF VINTA
NEGOTIATIONS
REPRESENTATIVE**

Chairperson Wishart called for nominations for the position of VINTA Negotiations representative for 2012.

Trustee Wishart nominated Trustee Hunter for the position of VINTA Negotiations Representative. Trustee Hunter declined the nomination.

Trustee Field nominated Trustee Prescott for the position of VINTA Negotiations Representative. Hearing no other nominations, Trustee Prescott was declared VINTA Negotiations Representative for 2012.

Chairperson Wishart explained that alternates for CUPE and VINTA Negotiations as well as other Board Committees will be settled at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Chairperson Wishart also informed the public that the Trustee Oath of Office had been taken by all of the trustees before the In-Camera meeting.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

89/11

Field/Manke:

That the minutes of the November 7, 2011 meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

No additions to the agenda.

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA**

90/11

Manke/Hunter:

That the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

**2011-12 SCHOOL PLAN
PRESENTSATION
NORTH ISLAND**

Superintendent, Scott Benwell, introduced to the Board Ms. Lauren Deadman, Principal of North Island Secondary School.

SECONDARY SCHOOL Ms. Deadman shared a brief presentation summarizing the outcome of North Island Secondary School goals for the 2010-2011 school year. Ms. Deadman shared many photos with the Board showing a positive learning environment and school culture at North Island Secondary School.

2011-12 SCHOOL PLAN PRESENTATION PORT HARDY SECONDARY SCHOOL Superintendent, Scott Benwell, introduced to the Board Mr. Steve Gray, Principal of Port Hardy Secondary School and Mr. Malcolm Fleeton, Vice-Principal of Port Hardy Secondary School. Mr. Gray and Mr. Fleeton presented a short film created by one of the senior students at PHSS. During the film, the student interviewed fellow students asking them what they liked best about their school.

Mr. Gray summarized the presentation by stating that the core strength of Port Hardy Secondary School is social responsibility.

LETTER TO PARENTS RE REPORT CARDS Superintendent Scott Benwell shared a letter with the Board that he had written for administrators to be used at their discretion regarding report cards. The letter helps explain to parents what can be expected from report cards during job action, including attendance information, course enrolment, and achievement in those courses taught by administrators. Dr. Benwell explained that a similar letter to parent was sent out by VINTA.

ABORIGINAL ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT II Superintendent, Scott Benwell, introduced District First Nations Principal Kaleb Child and thanked him for his ongoing work as District Principal and as School Principal at Fort Rupert Elementary School.

Mr. Child presented to the Board the District Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement II. Mr. Child stated that this agreement would be the second Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement to be signed by the District. . He explained that the first agreement was signed by the District in 2005 and that each agreement is a five year agreement developed in full collaboration with the First Nations Education Council. February 24, 2011 has been set as a potential official signing date, with the hope that the Minister of Education will be in attendance. Mr. Child ended his presentation by thanking the Board, FNEC, school personnel, and Senior Management for their help in the development of the agreement and requested the Board move to approve the agreement as presented.

91/11 Field/Hunter:
That the Board approve the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement II as presented.

CARRIED

SCHOOL PLANNING COUNCIL TRAINING Superintendent, Scott Benwell, shared an invitation to everyone in our education community to participate in a School Planning Council training workshop on December 12, 2011. The workshop is being put

on by the District in partnership with DPAC.

**DISPBURSEMENTS
OCTOBER 2011**

Hunter/Manke:

That the October 2011 disbursement statements be approved.

CARRIED

**SUFFICIENT AND
PREDICTABLE
FUNDING**

Trustee Manke requested that the Board consider how to put pressure on the government regarding education funding. Trustee Manke expressed the need for predictable and sufficient funding and suggested that conversations need to take place with other districts as well as within our own.

PHSS FIELD TRIP

Assistant Superintendent, Katherine McIntosh, shared a request for approval in principle for an out of country field trip. PHSS teacher, D'Arcy Deacon, is planning to take a group of grade 10-12 students on a school trip to Belize during Spring Break 2013 and is requesting approval in principle by the Board.

92/11

Field/Manke:

That the Board approve in principle the PHSS field trip to Belize planned for Spring Break 2013.

CARRIED

LEMARE REQUEST

A letter from Lemare Logging was circulated to the Board requesting that policy be waived to allow alcohol to be served at Lemare's Christmas party at Sunset Elementary School gymnasium on December 10, 2011.

Trustee Prescott stated that Lemare has used the gymnasium many times in the past as a venue for its Christmas party, without incident, and that Lemare employees have always been responsible and respectful in their use of the facilities.

93/11

Prescott/Manke:

That the policy be waived to permit the serving of alcohol at the Lemare Christmas party to be held in the Sunset gymnasium.

**SD#85 PROFESSIONAL
LEARNING PLAN**

Assistant Superintendent, Katherine McIntosh, was pleased to announce to the Board the District's new model to deliver in-service and support professional learning. The District recognizes that teacher's often determine the skills, concepts and knowledge they feel their students need to acquire and that teachers then fashion their own professional learning to support student achievement. The Professional Learning Plan is intended to support teacher inquiry into learning and will work to align resources to support and foster the development of inquiry. Ms. McIntosh explained that Judy Halbert and Linda Kaser will be working with the District over the next two years facilitating administrators, teachers, support staff and parents to help learn more about the process of inquiry.

**VINTA-DISTRICT
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT IN-
SERVICE DAY**

Assistant Superintendent, Katherine McIntosh, announced that the North Island Administrators Association will be partnering with Gold River on February 17, 2011 to undertake professional learning on the topic of Supervision for Learning. Although administrators will not be in attendance for local activities that are planned for that day, Senior Management supports NIA in this undertaking of professional development.

Superintendent, Scott Benwell, explained that typically Administrators are expected to remain in District for the February District Pro-D/ In-Service day as this day is usually organized in partnership with VINTA. In light of job action and the lack of collaborative discussion with VINTA, this year will be an exception to that expectation, and will not become standard practice.

**BUSSING AND
WEATHER
PROCEDURES**

Trustee Prescott expressed concern for students who are bussed to school in out-lying areas during poor weather conditions. Trustee Prescott stated that these students should have the option of requesting homework and staying home from school rather than travelling in road conditions that may become hazardous. Trustee Prescott asked for improved communication with Emcon to better monitor road conditions as well as earlier communication with parents when buses are to be cancelled because of road conditions.

Trustees discussed the possibility of bus students unable to return home from school due to road closure or weather. Secretary-Treasurer John Martin stated that provisions for those students would be coordinated through their school's administrator(s). Mr. Martin explained that the District monitors road conditions carefully each day, especially in the mornings, and that every effort is made to ensure that the roads are safe for students. He explained that the Manager of Operations and Maintenance goes out early on bad weather days and checks roads before the buses are on the roads, that communication with Emcon is ongoing, and that the Port Alice bus driver drives to Port Alice each morning before picking up students, making him aware first hand of what the road conditions are like.

Superintendent, Scott Benwell, agreed with Mr. Martin that the biggest concern regarding the uncertainty with road conditions often occurs at the end of the day, bringing students home from school. Dr. Benwell stated that these safety concerns will be discussed with the Manager of Operations and Maintenance and Administrators to see what else can be done.

JOB ACTION

Superintendent, Scott Benwell, informed the Board of the recent Labour Relations Board ruling rejecting the petition by BCSPEA to make report cards an essential service and to impose a fine for withdrawn serviced by the BCTF. Dr. Benwell explained that, in accordance with the LRB ruling, teachers are still expected to mark provincial exams as long as administration has been used to the

maximum extent possible.

Dr. Benwell stated that excluded staff continue to support administrators with supervision and expressed his continued hope for successful collective bargaining and an end to job action.

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Manke expressed his appreciation for the work and partnership of school PACs and asked that the Board send Thank You notes, in the form of Christmas Greetings, to each PAC in the District.

Trustee Schmidt thanked the Board for welcoming her in her new role as trustee and stated that she looked forward to the work ahead and to the BCSTA Academy later in the week.

Trustee Hunter stated that it was great to be part of the new Board of Education, working with new trustees, a new Superintendent and new Assistant Superintendent and that he also was looking forward to the BCSTA Academy later this week.

Trustee Wishart spoke of the Employment Equity Agreement that was approved at the in-camera meeting and thanked everyone for their part in making that happen.

Trustee Garrett thanked the Board for welcoming him as a new trustee.

Trustee Field shared that he will be helping to serve breakfast at Port Hardy Secondary School on December 16th along with Chairperson Wishart and Fred Robertson. Trustee Field also expressed his anger with Bill 12 and Minister Abbott making it mandatory for retired teachers to pay professional dues to the BC Teachers' Council in order to maintain their teaching certification. Previously, retired teachers were exempt from having to pay these dues.

Trustee Prescott invited everyone to attend the annual Sea View Coffee House December 6th at 1:00 p.m. Trustee Prescott promised great entertainment and great food.

**DPAC
REPRESENTATIVE**

DPAC Chair, Penny Mills, welcomed the new Board members and expressed her sadness at Trustee Schmidt stepping back from her role as DPAC Co-Chair. Ms. Mills informed the Board that DPAC had still not held its AGM this year, but that it was hoping to have a quick AGM before the School Planning Council training workshop on December 12th. Ms. Mills stated that DPAC is relying on Trustees to help recruit parents to get involved in DPAC and that teleconferencing information has been sent out to PACs hoping to improve representation, especially from the island communities.

Ms. Mills stated that parents appear to be satisfied with communication with teachers regarding report cards and student

updates. Teachers are making themselves available to parents when requested.

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

VINTA President, Fred Robertson, congratulated the board members on their elections/ acclamations. Mr. Robertson stated how pleased VINTA is with having reached an Employment Equity Agreement. He acknowledged the agreement as an important and positive step, especially in light of Job Action.

Mr. Robertson reminded the Board that VINTA is still on strike. Mr. Robertson stated that the provincial government has removed funding for education for the past ten years and thanked Trustee Manke for his agenda item of “Sufficient and Predictable Funding”. Mr. Robertson stated the BCPSEA has walked away from discussions on class size and composition and that the current offer to teachers strips their collective agreement. Mr. Robertson thanked the previous Board for the respect it has shown for teachers and requested that the Board take that respect to the BCSTA Academy and share it with other Districts and the Provincial Government.

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE**

CUPE President Joanne Welsh congratulated the new Board. She stated that provincial negotiations were going well and that a number of local bargaining issues have been signed off. Another bargaining date will be set for January. Ms. Welsh announced that their Chief Shop Steward had recently stepped down, that a by-election was held, and that Colleen Martin was elected as the new Chief Shop Steward.

**ADJOURNMENT
87/11**

Prescott:
That the regular meeting of December 5, 2011 be adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer