

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

February 13, 2012

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 6:10 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

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
07/12**

Manke/Hunter:
That the minutes of the January 9, 2012 meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

Woss Consultation Process
Digital Packages

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
08/12**

Hunter Garrett:
That the agenda be adopted with the additions.

CARRIED

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

A delegate of teachers asked to speak to the Board. VINTA President Fred Robertson thanked the Board for hearing the delegation. Mr. Robertson recognized the Board as an elected body and asked that it exert its influence with BCPSEA and the Provincial Government to help negotiate a settlement with teachers. Mr. Robertson stated his belief that there is still room at the bargaining table to negotiate and that if the Government goes ahead with legislation, it would not be placing students as a priority.

Many teachers spoke, thanking the Board for its continued support and asking for its help in achieving a negotiated settlement. Teachers stated that they continue to love their profession but find it harder and harder to support their students' learning with less and less support and funding.

Chairperson Wishart stated that the Board was not in favour of a legislated settlement for teachers and would like to see a negotiated agreement.

DISTRICT ART SHOW

Port Hardy Secondary School teacher Joel Dyck presented his and colleague Jason Voth's shared vision of a District Art Show. The event will take place May 10th and 11th at Port Hardy Secondary School and will be open to students, District staff, and the community. The Art Show would give students and local artists an opportunity to

collaborate and showcase their work.

Assistant Superintendent Katherine McIntosh commended Mr. Dyck for the efforts both he and Mr. Voth have put into planning the event and assured him that she would be in attendance.

**2011-12 SCHOOL PLAN
PRESENTATION WOSS
LAKE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

Mr. Jay Dixon, Principal of Woss Lake Elementary School, shared a PowerPoint presentation that showcased his one-room school. Mr. Dixon shared some of the challenges and benefits of a school with such low enrolment and explained the school's primary goal of improved success in writing. Mr. Dixon concluded his presentation by stating how helpful and appreciated it would be if district staff could visit Woss Lake School and its students during the school year.

**SCHOOL PLAN
PRESENTATIONS
FORMAT**

Assistant Superintendent Katherine McIntosh updated the Board on what school principals proposed as a format for school plan presentations. Ms. McIntosh explained that administrators asked that school plan presentations be linked with the trustee school visits. Ms. McIntosh further explained that administrators offered to make themselves available to the board and partner groups on the day of scheduled school visits in order to answer questions that relate to the school and the school plan while allowing trustees to observe students in a real setting. Administrators suggested this be done in lieu of the current practice of public school presentation during board meetings.

Trustee Prescott stated that she would like to see optional student presentation at board meetings, giving students the opportunity to showcase their particular areas of interest.

Chairperson Wishart suggested that trustees and partner groups tour the school with the Principal as a means of presenting the school plan, and to bring that back to the board meeting as an agenda item for discussion during Trustee Sharing. Chairperson Wishart also suggested that principals encourage students to present at board meetings as well.

Superintendent Scott Benwell recommended that a schedule for next year be drafted and brought back to another board meeting for approval.

**REPORT CARD
PROCEDURES**

Dr. Benwell shared a letter with the Board that was sent to parents regarding report card procedures and what could be expected from report cards.

**LETTER TO PARENTS
RE: FSA**

Dr. Benwell shared a letter with the Board that was sent to parents regarding FSA testing.

**LETTER TO THE
COMMUNITY OF**

Chairperson Wishart shared with the Board a letter that was sent to the Community of Woss after the first reading of the School Closure

- WOSS** Bylaw. Another public meeting will be held sometime after March 15th.
- CUPE B.C. LETTER** Chairperson Wishart shared a letter from Barry O’Neill, President of CUPE B.C. The letter asks the Board to oppose the Canadian European Union Trade Agreement (CETE) and request that the B.C. Government explain the impacts that CETA will have on the Board’s governance.
- 09/12** Manke/Field:
That the Board support CUPE B.C.’s request. **CARRIED**
- ABORIGINAL ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT SIGNING CEREMONY** Superintendent Scott Benwell invited the Board to join the District, the Provincial Government, and local First Nations Chiefs and Councils in celebrating the official signing of the 2nd Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement. Dr. Benwell informed the Board that Minister Abbott will be in attendance along with Superintendent Liaison Sherri Mohoruk.
- Assistant Superintendent Katherine McIntosh explained to the Board that a canoe welcome was being planned as part of the ceremony. She shared a request from District Principal of First Nations Programs Kaleb Child asking the Board for approval for 10 to 14 PHSS students to participate in the welcome as canoe paddlers.
- 10/12** Garrett/Hunter
That the Board approve the request for students to participate in the canoe welcome as part of the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement Signing Ceremony. **CARRIED**
- STRATEGIC PLAN** Dr. Benwell presented the Board with a process for developing the Strategic Plan known as Thought Stream. Dr. Benwell explained that Thought Stream was a way to ask key questions and stream feedback from stakeholders. Dr. Benwell recommended the model, stating the benefits of using technologies that most students and district staff are already comfortable with. Using Thought Stream will give the District the ability to look for commonalities/themes in responses to questions asked and to incorporate those themes directly into the Strategic Plan.
- DIGITAL PACKAGES** Trustee Schmidt asked the Board to consider alternatives to the paper packages currently produced for Board meetings. Ms. Schmidt suggested the use of tablets as an environmentally friendly alternative to the use of paper, with the potential for additional cost and time savings.
- Chairperson Wishart offered to do more research into the matter and bring it back to the Board for further discussion. Trustees Prescott, Hunter, and Schmidt and Chairperson Wishart all requested to receive

digital packages for next month's board meeting.

DISBURSEMENTS

Field/Manke:

That the January 2012 disbursement statements be approved.

CARRIED

**2011-2012 AMENDED
BUDGET BYLAW**

Mr. Martin presented the Board with the 2011-2012 Amended Budget Bylaw. It was unanimously agreed to by all trustees that the bylaw would receive all 3 readings at this time.

11/12

Field/Garrett:

That the 2011-2012 Amended Budget Bylaw receive 1st reading.

CARRIED

12/12

Manke/Garrett:

That the 2011-2012 Amended Budget Bylaw receive 2nd reading.

CARRIED

13/12

Field/Manke:

That the 2011-2012 Amended Budget Bylaw receive 3rd reading.

CARRIED

PHSS FIELD TRIP

Assistant Superintendent Katherine McIntosh shared a request for the Board to approve a field trip to Cape Scott. PHSS teacher Kevin McGhee is planning to take 10 to 20 students on a camping trip to Cape Scott on May 18th for three nights.

14/12

Field/Manke:

That the Board approve the PHSS field trip to Cape Scott planned for May 2012.

CARRIED

**PORT ALICE SNOW
DAY PROTOCOL**

Superintendent Scott Benwell shared with the Board the bus cancellation protocol that was developed for Port Alice students at the request of Trustee Prescott.

**BUS CANCELATIONS –
JANUARY 20, 2012**

Dr. Benwell reported that on January 20, 2012, the bus cancellation protocol for Port Alice students was used. Dr. Benwell explained that busses were canceled due to bad weather and that the protocol worked well.

JOB ACTION

Superintendent Scott Benwell had nothing new to report in the area of job action and explained that supervision by excluded staff continues as usual. Dr. Benwell continues to hope for success at the collective bargaining table.

**BUSING DURING
EXAM WEEK**

Trustee Manke expressed his concern that when some busses are cancelled during provincial exam week, parents may be forced to take time off work in order to drive their child/children to school to write their provincial exams.

Dr. Benwell stated that he will look into the possibility for students affected by bus cancelations to write provincial exams at a school in their own community.

**WOSS
CONSULTATION
PROCESS**

Dr. Benwell stated that the school closure consultation meeting in Woss earlier in the day was productive and well attended. Dr. Benwell asked the Board to set a date for further consultation with the community of Woss regarding the possible closure of Woss Lake Elementary School.

Secretary-Treasurer John Martin suggested that the Board set the meeting for a date after March 15th, the date that the Ministry is scheduled to release the school district's funding for the next school year.

It was decided that a special meeting of the Board for consideration of the second reading of the School Closure Bylaw will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday March 27th at the School Board Office. If second reading occurs, a community consultation meeting will be scheduled.

BILL 33

Dr. Benwell informed the Board of changes to class size and composition for the month of January as they pertain to Bill 33 considerations. Alert Bay and Sunset each reported an additional division with three or more IEPs. EVES reported one division with more than 30 students. Dr. Benwell stated that consultation meetings have occurred and that the organization of divisions was, in his opinion, appropriate for student learning.

JOB ACTION

Dr. Benwell stated that there was little to report in the area of job action. Dr. Benwell also stated that there may be more news once Trevor Hughes, Assistant Deputy Minister of Industrial Relations, releases his report on negotiations.

BCPSEA AGM

Trustee Field reported that there were no elections at the BCPSEA AGM as all positions were filled by acclamation. Trustee Field also reported that the document "Can We Get There From Here" is now available to the public and posted on the BCSPEA website. Trustee Field affirmed that it is BCPSEA's intention to continue bargaining with the BCTF.

**POLICY COMMITTEE
15/12**

Wishart/Hunter:
That the changes to PM 1-25 School Planning Councils be approved.
CARRIED

16/12

Manke/Hunter:
That PM 2-90 Distribution of Promotional Materials receive 1st reading and be circulated for feedback.

CARRIED

17/12

Wishart/Manke:

That PM 4-70 Employment Equity receive 2nd reading and be circulated for feedback.

CARRIED

In an effort to replace outdated language and correct references to the school act, a number of policies were reviewed and friendly amendments were made.

18/12

Wishart/Schmidt:

That the changes to the following policies be approved:

Bylaw #1 Procedural Bylaw

Bylaw #2 Appeals Bylaw

Bylaw #3 Indemnification Against Proceedings Bylaw

Bylaw #4 Trustee Elections Bylaw

Bylaw #5 School Calendar Approval Procedure

PM 1-01 Role of the Board

PM 1-10 Appointment of Signing Officers

PM 1-12 Complaints

PM 1-20 District Parents' Advisory Council

PM 1-40 Policy Development

PM 2-00 & 5-00 Safe Schools

PM 2-10 Access to Educational Programs

PM 2-40 Challenges to Learning Resource Material

PM 2-70 Course Challenge

PM 2-72 Criminal Records Review Process

PM 2-95 Enrolment of International Students

CARRIED

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Garrett shared that he felt very prepared and informed at the New Trustee Academy in Vancouver thanks to the orientation held locally. Trustee Garrett thanked Working Foreman Rick Kolich and Manager of Operations and Maintenance Darby Gildersleeve for re-arranging the bus schedule so that Sointula students no longer had to wait longer than necessary for their bus.

Trustee Field stated that he enjoyed the day's visit to Woss and his recent visit to Cheslakees Elementary School.

Trustee Prescott also shared her recent visit to Cheslakees Elementary School and stated how happy parents seemed to be as teacher's met students and escorted them to the daycare.

Trustee Schmidt shared her recent visit to Eagle View and attended the school Spelling Bee. She stated that she was looking forward to attending the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement Signing Ceremony. Trustee Schmidt also felt it was a credit to the District how prepared she was at the New Trustee Academy.

Trustee Hunter spoke about the day's visit to Woss and conversations

he had with community members.

Chairperson Wishart shared that he had visited four schools and attended three PAC meeting this month.

**DPAC
REPRESENTATIVE**

DPAC Vice-Chair Amanda Jorgenson reported that the next DPAC meeting was scheduled for March 26th. Ms. Jorgenson stated that DPAC is currently working with School Planning Councils and that things are running smoothly right now.

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE**

CUPE Local 2045 President Joanne Welsh informed the Board that a bargaining date has been set for February 22, 2012. Ms. Welsh expressed her hope that an agreement in principle will be reached.

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

Local VINTA President, Fred Robertson, thanked the Board once again for its support and for amending the agenda to accommodate the delegation of teachers who came to express their concerns.

**ADJOURNMENT
19/12**

Field:
That the regular meeting of February 13, 2012 be adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer