

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

**January 9, 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

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**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES  
01/12**

Manke/Hunter:  
That the minutes of the December 5, 2011 meeting be adopted.  
**CARRIED**

**ADDITIONS TO THE  
AGENDA**

Committee Appointments

**ADOPTION OF  
AGENDA  
02/12**

Schmidt/Manke:  
That the agenda be adopted with the additions.

**CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE  
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairperson Wishart asked if any changes were desired in committee appointments. The following committee appointments for 2012 were made:

Personnel	Leightan Wishart, Alt – Eric Hunter
BCSTA Provincial Council	Eric Hunter, Alt – Werner Manke
BCPSEA	Jeff Field, Alt – Leightan Wishart
Scholarship	Leightan Wishart and Carol Prescott
FNEC	Danita Schmidt, Alt – Carol Prescott
CUPE Negotiations	Werner Manke, Alt – Carol Prescott
CUPE Grievance	Jeff Field, Alt – Werner Manke
VINTA Local Bargaining	Leightan Wishart, Alt – Lawrie Garrett
VINTA Joint Pro-D	Jeff Field, Alt – Carol Prescott
MT. Waddington Health Network	Eric Hunter
NI Post Sec. Education	Werner Manke

**2011-12 SCHOOL PLAN  
PRESENTATION  
ALERT BAY  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

Superintendent Scott Benwell introduced Ms. Jill Cook, Principal of Alert Bay Elementary School. Ms. Cook shared a PowerPoint presentation that showcased three main themes of her school: building a sense of community and belonging, a focus on leadership and ownership, and a focus on academic success. Ms. Cook attributed academic success at her school to the emphasis being given to guided reading and pull-out math programs.

**2011-12 SCHOOL PLAN  
PRESENTATION A.J.  
ELLIOTT  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

Superintendent Scott Benwell introduced Mr. Andrew Neilson, Principal of A.J. Elliott Elementary School. Mr. Neilson shared a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted his school in the context of its Finnish heritage, its First Nations culture and its surrounding marine community. Mr. Neilson summarized his presentation with the statement: School District No. 85 and A.J. Elliott, “Specializing in small schools.”

**PAC LETTER**

Superintendent Scott Benwell shared his response to a letter he received from Port McNeill Elementary School PACs concerning traffic flow in front of the schools and student safety. Dr. Benwell explained that the Manager of Operations and Maintenance has identified a number of possible scenarios and is working with the schools to come up with solutions to the problems.

**EMPLOYMENT  
EQUITY**

Superintendent Scott announced that the Board of Education had ratified the Employment Equity Agreement and in doing so joins VINTA in that ratification. Dr. Benwell explained that the Employment Equity Agreement will be forwarded for approval to the Provincial level and that he is proud to have been a part of the process.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

Superintendent Scott Benwell presented an overview of the Strategic Plan. Dr. Benwell explained that the plan is a means to help put in place the conditions necessary for every learner to engage, excel, and find meaning in their education. The Superintendent proposed the following timeframe for the Strategic Plan:

January / February	Plan Development
March / April	Consultation
May / June	Promotion and Celebration

**03/12**

Field/Garrett:  
That the planning process for the Strategic Plan be approved.

**CARRIED**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S  
REPORT ON  
ACHIEVEMENT**

Superintendent Scott Benwell presented his Report on Achievement that was submitted to the Board on December 15, 2011 for approval. Dr. Benwell explained that his Report on Achievement is a summary, at the systemic level, of what is happening in the District. Dr. Benwell went over statistics with the Board highlighting successes in the areas of completion rates, aboriginal student achievement and overall improvements in course marks. Dr. Benwell also identified challenges in declining provincial exam results, lower achievement rates of C+ or better, as well as declining DART achievement results

**04/12**

Field/Manke:  
That the Superintendent’s Report on Achievement be approved.

**CARRIED**

**SPC TRAINING**

Superintendent Scott Benwell stated that he was impressed by the

attendance from parents, trustees and administrators at the December School Planning Council workshop and that a follow up session is being planned. Dr. Benwell emphasized that School Planning Councils are not only necessary, but valuable assets to their schools and the District.

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Hunter/Schmidt:  
That the November 2011 and December 2011 disbursement statements be approved.

**CARRIED**

**SCHOOL CLOSURE  
BYLAW NO. 1-2012  
WOSS LAKE  
ELEMENTARY**

Chairperson Wishart explained the process for the reading of a school closure bylaw. He explained that the first reading does not mean that a school will be closed, but begins the process of open discussion and consultation.

Secretary-Treasurer John Martin stated that there are currently four students registered at Woss lake Elementary School. Senior District staff recommended to the Board that the school be closed due to low and declining enrolment.

Trustee Field requested administration provide a confirmation of projected September enrolment for the school, the actual number of younger, future students in the community, and whether any potential for growth exists in the community.

On March 15, 2012, the Minister of Education will announce the school district's funding for the next school year. The Board will have this information when giving consideration to the reading of the School Closure Bylaw 1-2012

**05/12**

Hunter/Schmidt:  
That School Closure Bylaw No. 1-2012 Woss Lake Elementary School Receive first reading as amended.

**CARRIED**

**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.

**TRUSTEE SHARING**

Trustee Garrett stated that he was very impressed by Stephen Murgatroyd's presentation at the BCSTA December Academy. Trustee Garrett thought Mr. Murgatroyd's ideas affirmed the direction that the School District is moving towards in areas such as an inquiry model for professional learning and the skills he identified as needed by teachers to improve student learning. Trustee Garrett also shared his recent visit to A.J. Elliott School, singing Christmas carols with staff and students.

Trustee Field shared his enjoyment at a recent visit to the PHSS shop class and helping at the annual pancake breakfast at PHSS. Trustee Field also shared his appreciation for the work a group of grade 6/7 EVES students were doing on a “What’s in a Name?” project, researching the meaning of their school’s name. Trustee Field was interviewed by the group as a past teacher at the school and hopes that the students may wish to present their findings to the Board in the future.

Trustee Manke shared that he recently refereed a basketball game at NISS between NISS and PHSS students. Trustee Manke stated that the players were polite, respectful and displayed good sportsmanship. Trustee Manke also helped out the NISS breakfast before the Christmas break. He stated how much he enjoyed the Sunset Christmas concert, put on by Vice Principal Dan Baker and his wife and that the concert was very well attended.

Trustee Schmidt thanked the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for their presentations at the School Planning Council workshop and stated that they had helped to excite and motivate the parents in attendance. Trustee Schmidt shared her enjoyment of her visit that morning to Sunset school and to Mr. Neilson’s math class.

Trustee Hunter shared his enjoyment of the Alert Bay Elementary School Christmas concert and stated that the community had stood and applauded Principal Jill Cook for her efforts. Trustee Hunter stated that he was genuinely inspired by the BCSTA December Academy and the many new and wonderful ideas that were presented there.

Chairperson Wishart stated how much he enjoyed all of the classrooms he had visited that morning at Sunset school and urged others to visit the school and see all that is happening there.

**DPAC  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Penny Mills, Co-Chair of DPAC, reported that DPAC held a brief AGM before the School Planning Council workshop. Ms. Mills stated that she was re-elected as Chair, Amanda Jorgenson is the Vice-Chair, Danita Schmidt is the Treasurer, and that DPAC now has a parent representative from PHSS. Ms. Mills thanked the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for their participation in the workshop and reported receiving positive feedback from the event. Ms. Mills also stated how impressed she was at the number of administrators that had attended. The next DPAC meeting will be held on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm. This meeting will be the first teleconference meeting to be help by DPAC and Ms. Mills asked that anyone who wished to attend please email her at least a week prior to the meeting so that she can make the necessary arrangements.

Ms. Mills stated how great the work and re-configuration at Cheslakees School looks and invited everyone to attend the Open

House at Huckleberry House on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:15 pm to 5:15 pm.

**VINTA  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Local VINTA President, Fred Robertson, reminded the Board that teachers are still on strike and that there remains a small window of opportunity to accomplish something with teacher bargaining. Mr. Robertson encouraged the Board to speak to BCPSEA and provincial parties using its influence to ask for a negotiated agreement with teachers. Mr. Robertson stated that issues such as employment equity, local bargaining, and in-service models, address issues locally and that local solutions are what work for this District. Mr. Robertson cautioned that if legislation is imposed on teachers, there will be no local resolutions to local issues.

**CUPE  
REPRESENTATIVE**

There was no CUPE Representative in attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT  
06/12**

Schmidt:  
That the regular meeting of January 9, 2012 be adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Chairperson of the Board

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Secretary-Treasurer