

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

June 11, 2012

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
Werner Manke, Trustee
Danita Schmidt, Trustee

Absent: Carol Prescott, Trustee

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
48/12**

Hunter/Field:
That the minutes of the May 7, 2012 meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
49/12**

Field/Garrett:
That the minutes of the May 9, 2012 special meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

No additions

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
50/12**

Field/Schmidt:
That the agenda be adopted.
CARRIED

**“WHAT’S IN A
NAME?” EVES
PROJECT
PRESENTATION**

Ms. Sandra Gunson, teacher librarian and ELL teacher at Eagle View Elementary School, introduced a group of grade five and six students and their inquiry project “What’s in a Name?” The students presented a brief documentary on the history of their school and how it came to be named and explained to the board the challenges they faced working as a group, researching historical documents, and editing their work.

**JAMES GORMAN
LETTER**

Superintendent Scott Benwell shared a letter from Deputy Minister James Gorman regarding \$29,513 in funding that the district will receive to support K-3 readers.

**ERASE BULLYING
STRATEGY**

Assistant Superintendent Katherine McIntosh shared an announcement from Premier Christy Clark detailing the ERASE program, a Ministry-funded anti-bullying strategy. The program will include training for parents, staff and community members, new on-line resources for parents and students, the development of stronger codes of conduct for schools, and Provincial guidelines in threat assessment.

Ms. McIntosh explained that the District currently has many anti-

bullying initiatives in place, and has worked for several years with partner groups to create a bully free environment for all students.

**DISTRICT
ACHIEVEMENT
CONTRACT**

Superintendent Scott Benwell reviewed the 2012-2013 District Achievement Contract and gave a brief overview of district goals and expectation and explained areas of concern in equity of provincial course and exam marks and the low level of completion rates of C+ or better. Dr. Benwell explained the endeavour to attend to Special Education and First Nations Education programs and the ongoing discussions with teachers and district staff surrounding quality assessment and curriculum.

51/12

Schmidt/Manke:

That the 2012-2013 District Achievement Contract be approved.

CARRIED

LIF TIMELINES

Dr. Benwell explained that in accordance with the previous requirements under Bill 33 and new regulations under Bill 22, school and administrative staff were working together to meet the requirements of the Learning Improvement Fund reporting timelines. Dr. Benwell will be meeting with VINTA to discuss LIF funding allocations. Secretary-Treasurer John Martin will be consulting with CUPE to discuss how 12.5% of the LIF budget will be spent on support staff.

BILL 33 REPORT

Dr. Benwell informed the Board of changes to class size and composition for the month of May as they pertain to Bill 33 considerations. Dr. Benwell stated that a consultation meeting was held and that the organization of divisions was, in his opinion, appropriate for student learning.

**SUPERINTENDENT
OF ACHIEVEMENT
VISIT**

Dr. Benwell reported on the recent visit from Allison Sidow, the Superintendent of Achievement. Ms. Sidow toured local schools, and discussed district goals with senior management and staff. Dr. Benwell reported that Ms. Sidow approved of the direction the school district was headed in and that Ms. Sidow was very impressed with the Early Learning Centre at Cheslakees School.

**SCHOOL PLAN
TEMPLATE**

Dr. Benwell presented the Board with the new school plan template. He explained how the new format replaces several documents that principals were previously responsible for maintaining.

**CYBER BULLYING
BROCHURE**

Assistant Superintendent Katherine McIntosh shared an anti-bullying brochure that was published and sent home with every student in the district. The brochure was created in partnership with First Nations and Special Education programs.

**DISTRICT LITERACY
PLAN**

Ms. McIntosh presented the District Literacy Plan for 2012-2013. She explained that the plan represents five years of programming to improve literacy in the District. The North and South zone each have a

coordinator that helps develop and implement strategies to improve literacy and who then submits a report for each community. The Plan shows how the district works in partnership with the community to support learning and literacy goals.

52/12

Manke/Schmidt:

That the District Literacy Plan be approved.

CARRIED

**GRADE LEVEL
READING STRATEGY
MAP**

Ms. McIntosh shared a grade level reading strategy map that is an appendix to the District Achievement Contract. She explained that the main goal of the map is to have students reading at grade level by grade five and is intended to remind those in primary roles exactly what is being targeted. Ms. McIntosh described the strategy map as a “how to for the system.”

**ABORIGINAL DAY
FIELD TRIP**

Ms. McIntosh explained to the Board that canoe trips were being planned as part of National Aboriginal Day Celebration on June 22, 2012. She shared a request from District Principal of First Nations Programs Kaleb Child asking the Board for approval for students to participate in the canoe trips. All requirements for a high-risk field trip will be adhered to.

53/12

Hunter/Garrett:

That the Board approve the request for students to participate in canoe trips as part of the National Aboriginal Day Celebration on June 22, 2012.

CARRIED

**DISBURSEMENTS
APRIL AND MAY 2012
54/12**

Field/Manke:

That the April 2012 and May 2012 disbursement statements be approved.

CARRIED

**2012-2013 BUDGET
BYLAW**

Mr. Martin presented the Board with the 2012-2013 Budget Bylaw. It was unanimously agreed to by all trustees that the bylaw would receive all 3 readings at this time.

55/12

Field/Garrett:

That the 2012-2013 Budget Bylaw receive 1st reading.

CARRIED

56/12

Hunter/Manke:

That the 2012-2013 Budget Bylaw receive 2nd reading.

CARRIED

57/12

Field/Garrett:

That the 2012-2013 Budget Bylaw receive 3rd reading.

CARRIED

**BOARD MEETING
SCHEDULE 2012-2013**

Mr. Martin presented the Board with a board meeting schedule for 2012-2013. Mr. Martin explained that concerns regarding the venue in Port McNeill will be addressed. Changes in the Committee of the Whole meeting schedule were noted and topics for the meetings were added.

58/12

Manke/Schmidt:
That the 2012-2013 Board Meeting Schedule be approved.

CARRIED

**JULY BOARD
MEETING**

Superintendent Scott Benwell recommended that the July Board meeting be cancelled since the District Achievement Contract and District Literacy Plan were approved at this meeting. Dr. Benwell stated that a special meeting could be called if a need arose.

59/12

Manke/Schmidt:
That the board meeting scheduled for July 9, 2012 be cancelled.

CARRIED

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Manke helped with security during the NISS graduation ceremony and stated that everything went smoothly.

Trustee Hunter stated that Chairperson Wishart was very engaging during his presentation at the NISS graduation ceremony.

Trustee Garrett shared that he had attended the PHSS convocation ceremony for the first time. He was impressed with the quality of the young people graduating and stated that it spoke well of the quality of education they had received.

Trustee Field was impressed with the quality of the PHSS valedictorian address and the tremendous generosity of the community in their contributions to local scholarships and bursaries.

Chairperson Wishart stated that over \$51,000 was handed out in scholarship donations during the NISS graduation ceremony. He stated that the students looked wonderful and agreed with Trustee Garrett that our students are well-rounded and well served by their community.

**DPAC
REPRESENTATIVE**

DPAC Co-Chair Amanda Jorgenson stated that she had recently attended the Provincial PAC AGM in Vancouver and thanked the Board for its dedication and support, as other boards in the Province are not as supportive of their DPACs. Ms. Jorgenson was fortunate to meet with Minister Abbott and the new Superintendent of Reading. She reported that the final DPAC meeting of the year will be at Sea View School on June 25th at 6:00 p.m.

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

VINTA President Fred Robertson thanked the Board for its support during a difficult year and requested that the Board support the

Cowichan School Board that has taken a stand not to support cuts to education by submitting a deficit budget.

Mr. Robertson expressed his concern with the district goal of all students reading at grade level. He asked the board to investigate the possibility of becoming a living wage employer, which he believes the board already is, and to investigate the development of an anti-homophobia policy. Mr. Robertson again thanked the board and wished everyone a good summer.

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE**

CUPE Local 2045 representative Pan Quinton stated that the Union hopes to have their recently ratified collective agreement signed by the end of the month.

**ADJOURNMENT
47/12**

Schmidt:
That the regular meeting of June 11, 2012 be adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer