

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

June 9, 2014

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 6:05 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
46/14**

Manke/Hunter:
That the minutes of the May 12, 2014 meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

Letter From the Minister

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
47/14**

Schmidt/Hunter:
That the agenda be adopted as amended.
CARRIED

VINTA DELEGATION

A delegation of teachers asked to speak to the Board. VINTA President Fred Robertson thanked the Board for hearing the delegation.

Several teachers spoke to the Board regarding the current labour dispute.

**EKE ME-XI FILM
PROJECT**

Principal Jillian Walkus, teacher Leah Hubbard, and several Eke Me-Xi students shared one of the eight student short films made with help from World Film Productions, to be presented at next year's Cowichan Film Festival. Two Eke-Me Xi students won awards at the festival this year for their work. Students are selling DVDs for \$20.00 each to help fundraise so that the entire school can attend next year's film festival.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairperson Wishart shared a letter from the Minister written in response to the Board's letter expressing disappointment in the termination of openStudent.

**DISTRICT
ACHIEVEMENT
CONTRACT
48/14**

Hunter/Manke:
That the Board approve the 2012-2015 District Achievement Contract, updated June 2014.
CARRIED

**DISTRICT LITERACY
PLAN
49/14**

Garrett/Manke:
That the Board approve the 2014 District Literacy Plan.
CARRIED

**OFFICE OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL**

Superintendent Scott Benwell reported on the successful visit from the Office of the Auditor General. The group visited many district schools, band schools, and community and partner groups. The visit represented a comprehensive examination of aboriginal programs, choosing to look at SD85 as a sign of this district's successes in aboriginal student achievement.

DUAL CREDIT

Dr. Benwell announced that a small consortium has been lobbying North Island College to offer dual credit courses on high school semester timelines, not the college semester timelines. Four districts will be part of a criminology dual credit course offered next year through NIC following the public school semester system, with eight seats to be held for PHSS and NISS students (four seats each).

**DISTRICT
ENROLMENT**

Dr. Benwell reported that district enrolment is currently up 15 students from September. Unfortunately, the projected enrolment for next year is still down 50 students.

**DISBURSEMENTS
May 2014
50/14**

Field/Schmidt:
That the May 2014 disbursement statements be approved.

CARRIED

**2014-2015 BUDGET
BYLAW**

Secretary-Treasurer John Martin presented the Board with the 2014-2015 Budget Bylaw. It was unanimously agreed to by all trustees that the bylaw would receive all 3 readings at this time.

51/14

Manke/Hunter:
That the 2014-2015 Budget Bylaw receive 1st reading.

CARRIED

52/14

Manke/Schmidt:
That the 2014-2015 Budget Bylaw receive 2nd reading.

CARRIED

53/14

Manke/Schmidt:
That the 2014-2015 Budget Bylaw receive 3rd reading.

CARRIED

NISS HVAC TENDER

Mr. Martin announced that the NISS HVAC upgrade should be able to proceed within budget. Bids were very competitive. The winning contractor was asked to find potential cost savings in order to stay within budget. Mr. Martin recommended that savings #1, #3, and #4 be accepted as that work could be done at a later date without compromising the integrity of the project. The project should be complete this fall.

54/14

Garrett/Hunter:

That the Board accept the winning bid with the recommended cost savings options for work on the HVAC upgrades to North Island Secondary School.

CARRIED

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Manke thought the presentation of the Sea View school plan was very informative and he was thrilled to see three full classrooms at the school.

Trustee Field stated that people often forget that Sea View is also a high school. He was pleased that the school continues to look for opportunities to provide the same programs as the other high schools and suggested the Board look at ways to utilize staff. He suggested trustees read about the many professional development opportunities in Teacher magazine that focus on fine arts and libraries/learning commons.

Chairperson Wishart was pleased to hear that five of the six grade eight students at Sea View have elected to stay at their school next year and that the Principal is looking to connect with the PHSS shop teacher to find ways to offer shop courses to his students. Chairperson Wishart attended both graduation ceremonies and was pleased to report that over \$90,000.00 in scholarships were awarded to our graduates.

Trustee Schmidt attended the Eagle View cultural celebration and was happy to see students proud to dance and participate. She thanked the teachers and staff for helping to make the event a success. She will be attending the District track meet on June 11 and the Fort Rupert Yayuma on June 12.

Trustee Hunter stated that the Board made a good choice in hiring the Principal at Sea View. He appreciated the math-in-action illustrations and STEM activities. He attended the Alert Bay cultural celebration and enjoyed the student emcee.

Trustee Garrett appreciated the reparations to the marquee at NISS and congratulated maintenance staff on their work

BCPSEA

Trustee Field reported that little progress is being made at the bargaining table but that both parties would like to reach an agreement by June 30th. He also reported that CUPE currently has an agreement in committee.

FNEC

Trustee Schmidt reported that most of the FNEC meeting was spent with the team from the Office of the Auditor General. She also reported that FNEC approved an increase in wages of contract workers to reflect the CUPE wage increases.

**DPAC
REPRESENTATIVE**

No DPAC representative.

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

VINTA representative Shawn Gough thanked the Board for listening to the delegation of teachers. He hoped for a resolution to the labour dispute by June 25th. He reflected that it only took five days for a settlement to be reached with CUPE, but it took 16 months for the Provincial Government to move off of a 10 year contract. He stated that Boards of Education need to tell BCPSEA to “get the job done!”

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE**

Jody Welch introduced herself as the newly elected 2nd Vice-President for Local 401. She reported that CUPE has reached a tentative agreement and will be voting on June 16th. June 30th has been set for a local bargaining meeting. She was happy to report that wage increases in the new contract will be funded by the Provincial Government.

**ADJOURNMENT
55/14**

Schmidt:
That the regular meeting of June 9, 2014 be adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer