

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

June 8, 2015

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Field, Vice-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:

Eric Hunter, Trustee
Werner Manke, Trustee
Carol Prescott, Trustee
Danita Schmidt, Trustee
Lyn Skrlac, Trustee

Absent: Leighton Wishart

**RECOGNITION OF
TRADITIONAL
TERRITORIES**

Vice-Chairperson Field opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Kwakiutl First Nation and the Kwak'wala speaking peoples.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
59/15**

Hunter/Schmidt:
That the minutes of the May 11, 2015 meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

STEM Day Feedback
Adult Student Tuition

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
60/15**

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

**TOOL DONATION
PRESENTATION –
KEVIN MCGHEE**

Port Hardy Secondary teacher Kevin McGhee reported on an opportunity offered to the District by the BC Construction Association that involved a \$40,000 donation of high quality tools to each high school as part of a two-year obligation to offer Skills Exploratory 10, 11 and 12. The course(s) will allow students to sample four trade areas during a semester;0 carpentry, auto mechanics, plumbing and pipefitting, and electronics. Mr. McGhee thanked the Board for its support in helping to bring the program to the District.

**FORESTRY
ACADEMY
PRESENTATION –
FRED ROBERTSON**

Retired teacher Fred Robertson updated the Board on the development of the SD85 Forestry Academy. He reported that the Academy will begin offering courses next year. Students from both NISS and PHSS have already registered for the program. He explained that, over the period of four semesters, students will participate in four intensive two-week, four-credit courses for a total of 16 credits towards their graduation program. Incoming PHSS Vice-principal Adrian Pendergast will be teaching the Forestry Academy courses.

- CORRESPONDENCE** Vice-Chairperson Field shared correspondences from the Board Chair to the BCSTA president.
- INQUIRY PROJECTS** Superintendent Scott Benwell summarized the school inquiry projects that will be undertaken next year. The projects will focus on a number of different areas including literacy, numeracy, writing and assessment practices.
- PROVINCIAL INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP** Dr. Benwell was pleased to report that the District is currently working with Sea View School in preparing a K-12 Innovation Strategy Inventory and Partnership proposal. The proposal focuses on innovations in multi-age student groupings spearheaded by incoming Principal Heather Johnson.
- STEM FEEDBACK** Dr. Benwell shared feedback that was sent to the top four teams of the 2015 Sea View STEM Challenge. James Davidson, the Vice-President of Sales, Marketing and Product Development at Western Concord, sent personalized letters to each project winning team, commenting on the overall concept, innovative qualities, entrepreneurial spirit and marketability of their design.
- DISBURSEMENTS:
MAY 2015
61/15** Schmidt/Hunter:
That the May 2015 disbursement statements be approved.
CARRIED
- SUMMER CAPITAL PROJECTS** Manager of Transportation and Maintenance Darby Gildersleeve reported on a number of project to be completed during the summer. Projects include lighting upgrades, boiler replacement, portable re-roofing, and various building and property repairs.
- CARBON NEUTRAL REPORT** Mr. Gildersleeve was pleased to report that the District used less energy last year than previous years and saved \$840 in carbon offset costs.
- PM2-42 CODE OF CONDUCT-UPDATE
62/15** Secretary Treasurer John Martin explained that a housekeeping amendment to PM 2-42 Code of Conduct was required in order to be in compliance with legislation. In accordance with revisions to the Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order, District and school codes of conduct must contain specific reference to each of the prohibited grounds of discrimination set out in the Human Rights Code.
Hunter/Skrlac:
That PM 2-42 Code of Conduct be amended to comply with changes to the Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order.
CARRIED
- ADULT TUITION FEES** Mr. Martin informed the Board that the Ministry is no longer funding academic upgrading offered to graduated adults and recommended that the Board charge a fee of \$500.00 to help offset the cost. This will

ensure that schools can continue to offer the service to students when appropriate.

63/15

Prescott/Hunter:

That the Board charge \$500.00 in tuition fees for unfunded courses offered to graduated adults.

CARRIED

Discussion ensued regarding the implications of not taking English after grade 10.

CRITICAL INCIDENT PROTOCOLS

Assistant Superintendent Carol Robertson was pleased to report that all of the District's Critical Incident Protocols are now updated and in place. The work was done in collaboration with multi-agencies and partner groups and protocols will be updated every year. She explained that all administrators received training and have been asked to share their training with school PACs and communities.

WHALE WATCHING FIELD TRIP – SUNSET
64/65

Schmidt/Hunter:

That the whale watching field trip for Sunset grade 3 students planned for June 11, 2015 be approved.

CARRIED

CULTURAL ACTIVITY – EKE ME-XI
65/15

Prescott/Schmidt:

That the on-going carving activities and projects to be offered at Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre for students as part of their study of traditional art be approved.

CARRIED

HOMELANDS VISITS – EKE ME-XI
66/15

Prescott/Hunter:

That the three Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre field trips to Smith Inlet, Blunden Harbour and the Deserters Island Group planned for June 2015 and September 2015 be approved on the condition that sufficient information be provided regarding the cancellation of trips due to inclement weather.

CARRIED

ACHIEVEMENT CONTRACT AND LITERACY PLAN

Dr. Benwell referred to the preceding Committee of the Whole meeting where trustees gave feedback on the BC Framework for Enhancing Student Learning. The feedback will be sent to the BCSTA as requested to be compiled with feedback from other school districts.

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Prescott was pleased to have trustees visit Port Alice and enjoyed having the students present their individual learning portfolios and the prosthetic limbs they designed as part of a STEM challenge. She enjoyed the ROSE dinner that she attended with Trustee Skrlac as well as the Alert Bay Cultural Celebration she attending with Trustee Hunter.

Trustee Hunter appreciated the competence demonstrated by the current Sea View principal and the evident transitioning of the incoming principal. He stated that the children were delightful.

Trustee Manke stated that he saw much in-depth learning during the school visit and stressed the value of learning through experience.

Trustee Schmidt wished to congratulate the UVic language cohort. She enjoyed attending the District Track and Field Day and will be attending the Port Hardy Secondary Graduation Ceremonies.

BCSTA

Trustee Hunter reminded trustees to read the BCSTA updates they receive regularly via email.

FNEC

There will be a FNEC meeting on Thursday.

**DPAC
REPRESENTATIVE**

There was no DPAC representative.

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

VINTA President Shawn Gough was glad to see the updates to the Critical Incidence Protocols and expressed his hopes that training will be ongoing. He also expressed his concern regarding the amount of time dedicated to LART at PHSS next year but acknowledged that some reduction was budgetary in nature. He stated that all academic advising is being done by administration at both high schools.

Mr. Gough was pleased to see adult students allowed the opportunity to attend high school but advised the Board and Sr. Management to look into how it is being managed at the school level. He stated that the District Track Meet was a spectacular success and reported that a student broke the district record in triple jump. He also stated that STEM day was a tremendous success and was pleased to hear the feedback from industry professionals.

Mr. Gough invited trustees and district staff to the VINTA Bill 11 barbeque on June 18th at Robert Scott School.

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE**

There was no CUPE report.

**ADJOURNMENT
6/7/15**

Schmidt:
That the regular meeting of June 8, 2015 be adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

CARRIED