

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

March 11, 2013

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 6:04 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Lawrie Garrett, Trustee
Eric Hunter, Trustee
Werner Manke, Trustee
Carol Prescott, Trustee
Danita Schmidt, Trustee

Absent: Leighton Wishart, Board Chair

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
23/13**

Prescott/Hunter:
That the minutes of the February 12, 2013 meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

Capital Projects
Energy Usage Report
Needs Budget 2013-2014

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
24/13**

Prescott/Garrett:
That the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

**KWAK'WALA BAA
COURSE
PRESENTATION**

District Principal of First Nations Programs Kaleb Child, PHSS teacher Jillian Walkus, and G&N cultural teacher Liz Cadwallader presented a draft BAA Course: Shared Understandings of the Kwak'wala Speaking Peoples 11a. The course was developed in partnership with FNEC and administration as a means for all students to build a deeper understanding of local First Nations language, culture, and history.

**R.D.M.W. REQUEST
25/13**

Prescott/Manke:
That the Board approve the Regional District of Mount Waddington's request for the use of A.J. Elliott School as a reception Center and alternate site for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the event of a community emergency.

CARRIED

DAILY SCHEDULES

Superintendent Scott Benwell updated the Board on the ongoing consultation process regarding the potential alignment of high school schedules.

26/13

Hunter/Garrett:
That the Board of Education for School District No. 85 (Vancouver Island North) supports the concept of aligning the daily schedule for

the 2013-2014 school year and encourages district and school-based administration to develop plans that meet the needs of both schools and undertake consultation with affected stakeholders.

CARRIED

STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr. Benwell updated the Board on the THOUGHTstream process and the Strategic Plan. THOUGHTstream invitations have been emailed out to parents and interested community members, and the first responses have started to come in.

CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

Dr. Benwell reported that Connections Program outings at NISS have been very successful and have received positive feedback from the community.

**BAA COURSE APPROVAL
27/13**

Schmidt/Manke:
That Shared Understanding of the Kwak’wala Speaking Peoples 11A be approved as a Board/Authority Authorized course.

CARRIED

INQUIRY UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent Katherine McIntosh was pleased to report on the success of the recent training sessions with Drs. Judy Halbert and Linda Kaser and District schools inquiry teams March 5-6. Judy and Linda will be returning in May to host an Inquiry Sharing/SPC Training workshop.

READING INTERVENTION TRAINING STRATEGY

Ms. McIntosh explained that the district continues to support teachers to achieve our literacy goals and that District Literacy Teacher Amanda Kiatipis is working with teachers to provide support and help develop reading strategies for all learners. Ms. Kiatipis has invited next year’s Kindergarten students and their parents to come to their new school in May to assist with their transition and to get to know each child as an individual learner.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY FOLLOW-UP

Ms. McIntosh thanked VINTA and the First Nations Education Department for hosting a wonderful professional development day, “Aboriginal Education: Reconciliation and Revitalization – a Deeper Understanding”, on February 15th.

R.O.S.E.

Ms. McIntosh invited trustees to attend the annual Recognition of Service Evening June 22, 2013 at Seven Hills Golf and Country Club.

**EKE ME-XI FIELD TRIP
28/13**

Prescott/Garrett:
That the Eke Me-Xi boat trip to Smith’s Inlet planned for April 26, 2013 be approved.

CARRIED

**DISBURSEMENTS
FEB. 2013
29/13**

Manke/Prescott:
That the February 2013 disbursement statements be approved.

CARRIED

OPENSTUDENT

Secretary-Treasurer John Martin reported that a District team including CUPE, VINTA, and excluded staff, participated in a presentation from the openStudent development team and was impressed with the openStudent product. Mr. Martin recommended that the District transition from BCeSIS to openStudent as a replacement student information system as soon as possible.

30/13

Prescott/Garrett:

That the District transition from the current student information system, BCeSIS to openStudent as soon as possible.

CARRIED

**ELECTORAL AREAS
UPDATE**

Mr. Martin shared a letter from the RDMW Area A director Heidi Soltau and her suggestions on the division of trustee electoral areas. Mr. Martin also shared a letter from Bill Clipperton, Vice-Chair of the Coal Harbour LCC requesting the Board include Coal Harbour in its electoral area community consultations. It was agreed that a consultation meeting in Coal Harbour would be arranged.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Mr. Martin reported that the boilers at Robert Scott School are starting to fail and need to be replaced. The cost of new high efficiency boilers will be \$60,000 and recommended that the Board approve this expenditure.

31/13

Hunter/Manke:

That the purchase of new high efficiency boilers to replace the failing, low efficiency boilers at Robert Scott Elementary School be approved.

CARRIED

Mr. Martin informed the Board that the Ministry has approved the purchase of three new school buses for the district.

Mr. Martin reported that the Alert Bay Garden Society has moved to a new location, no longer on School District property. He also reported that the Community Connections project at the Cormorant Island Community Learning Centre is now complete.

**ENERGY USAGE
REPORT**

Mr. Martin shared a report on the energy usage for each school in the district comparing annual energy consumption from 2011 to 2012.

NEEDS BUDGET

Trustees unanimously agreed with Trustee Manke's request to submit a needs budget to the Ministry of Education along with the 2013-2014 budget.

32/13

Manke/Schmidt:

That the Board submit a needs budget to the Ministry of Education along with the 2013-2014 budget.

CARRIED

SCHOOL ACT CHILD

A letter from Minister of Education Don McRae was shared along

- CARE AMENDMENTS** with a proposed amendment to the School Act concerning use of Board property for child care purposes.
- K-9 CROSS ENROLMENT** A letter from Deputy Minister James Gorman regarding the recent amendment to the School Act on K-9 Cross Enrolment was shared.
- BCSTA** Trustee Hunter attended the Provincial Council Meeting on February 23rd and asked trustees to visit the BCSTA website to view all motions that were passed at the meeting.
- FNEC REPORT** Minutes of the last FNEC meeting were circulated. Trustee Schmidt explained that the district lost 54 first nations students this year which results directly in a reduction of targeted funding. She also reminded trustees that National Aboriginal Day is June 20, 2013.
- VISTA REPORT** Trustee Field explained that on April 25th, trustees across the province will wear green to draw attention to educational issues in the upcoming Provincial election.
- TRUSTEE SHARING – SCHOOL VISITS** Trustee Garrett enjoyed seeing students and conversing with staff during school visits.
- Trustee Prescott reported that BCPSEA and the BCTF have agreed to make a concerted effort towards respectful bargaining. She enjoyed the school visits and was encouraged to see students actively participating and sharing in class. She stated that she was looking forward to being a judge at the upcoming Young Entrepreneurs Day at Sea View School.
- Trustee Manke enjoyed the family-like atmosphere at Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre. He also enjoyed reading with Sunset students on Friday mornings and coaching the school's 6/7 basketball team.
- Trustee Schmidt enjoyed sitting with Eke Me-Xi students and was impressed with PHSS students' use of technology in the classroom.
- Trustee Hunter enjoyed being a judge at the Alert Bay Elementary School science fair.
- Trustee Field encouraged trustees to go online and vote for Eagle View students in the BC Green Games at www.bcgreengames.com. Students, calling themselves the "Electric Circus", are doing their part to conserve energy at their school.
- DPAC REPRESENTATIVE** DPAC representative Allison Mercer reported on the recent DPAC meeting where members discussed Thoughtstream, the strategic plan, and parking at Sunset school. Ms. Mercer reported that DPAC will be sending a representative for training in May.

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

VINTA President Fred Robertson expressed his concern with next year's budget as presented. He recognized the need to have programs in place to keep students in school and pointed out the absence of teachers in the consultation process regarding the Deputy Minister's announcement on K-9 distributed learning. Mr. Robertson also shared his concern about cuts to teachers and the administrator – teacher ratio and acknowledged the Board for submitting a needs budget to the Ministry of Education.

Mr. Robertson is looking forward to local bargaining scheduled to begin in April.

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE**

CUPE Local 2045 President Jody Welch informed the Board that National Rep. Jocelyn Morgan will be leaving on April 5th. Ms. Welch was pleased to report that the Local ratified bargaining proposals at their last meeting and are ready to begin bargaining. Ms. Welch also reported that on January 26th, the Local voted to merge with Local 401 Nanaimo. Once the merger is approved, Local 2045 will no longer exist or have an executive of its own.

**ADJOURNMENT
33/13**

Prescott:
That the regular meeting of March 11, 2013 be adjourned at 7:45 p.m.
CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer