

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

March 12, 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 6:05 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

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
20/12**

Hunter/Manke:
That the minutes of the February 13, 2012 meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

Woss School Closure
Bus Cancelation
Funding Announcement 2012/13
Bill 22

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
21/12**

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

CARRIED

**ANN HORY
LONGTIME SERVICE
CELEBRATION**

Chairperson Wishart recognized former Trustee Ann Hory for her eighteen years of dedicated service to the Board and to the students of School District 85.

Many trustees, guests and District staff spoke, commending Ann for her passion, dedication, and courage of conviction.

Ann Hory was presented with a gift in recognition for her years of service to the Board of Education.

MEETING RECESSED

The meeting recessed from 6:25 p.m. until 6:40 p.m.

**2011-12 SCHOOL PLAN
PRESENTATION
EAGLE VIEW
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

Mr. Frank MacLean, Principal of Eagle View Elementary School, shared a PowerPoint presentation that showcased his school. Mr. MacLean listed some of the many opportunities his students have to learn more than academics, as they participate in various clubs, organized activities and group projects that interest them.

**2011-12 SCHOOL PLAN
PRESENTATION FORT
RUPERT**

Mr. Kaleb Child, Principal of Fort Rupert Elementary School, presented his school plan, highlighting school goals of improved literacy, numeracy, and social responsibility. Mr. Child stated that his

**ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

school's rules are based on the Kwak'wala philosophy of "Mayaxala" meaning "to take care of". Mr. Child also shared a slideshow of pictures from the FRES "Yayuma" or play potlatch.

**WOSS SCHOOL
CLOSURE**

Secretary-Treasurer John Martin announced that funding to small rural schools has been increased for next year and recommended that the Board discontinue the school closure process for Woss Lake Elementary School.

22/12

Manke/Field:
That the Board discontinue to closure process for Woss Lake Elementary School.

CARRIED

The special meeting of the Board, scheduled for March 27, 2012 was cancelled.

DASH

Secretary-Treasurer John Martin reported \$15,000 was granted from DASH BC to support programming in Alert Bay for after-school sports. Jill Cook was commended for making the proposal to secure the funds.

**LETTER TO PARENTE
RE: STRIKE ACTION**

Superintendent Scott Benwell shared a letter that was sent to parents explaining Phase 2 of job action and the full withdrawal of services by teachers for three days. Dr. Benwell explained that School District No. 85 was one of only a few districts in the province that closed schools during that time. Dr. Benwell further explained that closure of schools was due to the unique geography of our District and was necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of students.

**BC RETIRED
TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION**

Chairperson Wishart shared a letter from the BC Retired Teachers' Association. The letter summarizes a research project on the number of retired teachers that volunteer and the areas of focus they volunteer in.

**"IT"SCOOOL TO BE
FIT"**

Chairperson Wishart shared a letter from Donna Smood asking the Board to help petition the government to concur with a National Day and /or Campaign Week for "It's Cool to be Fit".

23/12

Manke/Garrett:
That the Board respond to the request in support of creating a National "It's Fit to be Cool" Day or Awareness Week.

CARRIED

**ABORIGINAL
EDUCATION
ENHANCEMENT
AGREEMENT SIGNING**

Superintendent Scott Benwell expressed his appreciation to all those who helped organize and execute the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement signing ceremony, making the event a success.

CEREMONY

**DISTRICT TEAM – BC
EDUCATION PLAN
MEETING**

Assistant Superintendent Katherine McIntosh reported that she was part of the District team that attended the BC Education Plan meeting. The meeting was one of 10 regional sessions held to review some of the plans initiatives and allow stakeholders to offer feedback.

**DISBURSEMENTS
24/12**

Hunter/Manke:
That the February 2012 disbursement statements be approved.

CARRIED

**FUNDING
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Secretary-Treasurer John Martin announced that provincial funding will be reduced by 1.5% next year. Mr. Martin explained that this was the first reduction in funding the district has seen in a number of years and that there is the potential for similar reduction over the next five years. Mr. Martin was pleased to announce that funding for small rural schools has been increased.

Mr. Martin informed the Board that money from the annual facility grant will go towards re-roofing Sunset School this summer.

**NISS FIELD TRIP –
EUROPE 2013**

Assistant Superintendent Katherine McIntosh shared a request for approval in principle for an out of country field trip. Kathyryn Mitchell and Joy Szwicker are planning to take a group of NISS grade 10-12 students on a school trip to Europe during Spring Break 2013.

25/12

Field/Manke:
That the Board approve in principle the NISS field trip to Europe planned for Spring Break 2013.

CARRIED

**PROVINCIAL INQUIRY
GRANT**

Superintendent Scott Benwell informed the Board that the District has an opportunity to receive \$7,500 in additional funding in support of district development and inquiry in the area of First Nations education.

BUS CANCELLATION

Dr. Benwell informed the Board that the Port Alice to NISS bus run was cancelled on March 12th due to poor road conditions. This is the second time this year that the Port Alice bus cancellation protocol has been initiated.

BILL 33

Dr. Benwell informed the Board of changes to class size and composition for the month of February as they pertain to Bill 33 considerations. All divisions reported are due to the semester change at NISS and PHSS. Dr. Benwell stated that consultation meetings were held and that the organization of divisions was, in his opinion, appropriate for student learning.

JOB ACTION

Dr. Benwell reported that teachers across the province withdrew

services completely for three days on March 5-7 and that schools in the district were closed for those days. Dr. Benwell reported that Bill 22 has been introduced to the Legislature and that until it is passed, supervision by excluded staff will continue as usual. Dr. Benwell stated that teachers are currently working “bell to bell” which is a term not defined by the LRB or phase 1 of job action.

VISTA CONFERENCE

Trustee Field reported on the recent VISTA conference he attended. Distributed learning schools and course distribution were discussed.

BILL 22

Trustee Field requested that the Board write a letter to the Provincial government expressing its disappointment with Bill 22 and the government’s inability to reach an agreement with teachers through negotiations.

26/12

Field/Manke:

That the Board write a letter to the Provincial government expressing its disappointment with Bill 22 and the government’s inability to reach an agreement with teachers through negotiations.

CARRIED

TRUSTEE SHARING

Trustee Schmidt shared her appreciation for the Superintendent introducing himself in Kwakwala at the Enhancement Agreement signing ceremony. Trustee Schmidt shared that she incorporates Aboriginal Enhancement goals into the Foundation Skills class that she teaches.

Trustee Manke shared his enjoyment of the signing ceremony and the Superintendent’s speech. Trustee Manke stated he enjoyed his visit to Cheslakees Elementary School earlier that day.

Trustee Prescott shared how wonderful the food was and how organized the distribution of it was. She stated that it was a wonderful feast.

Trustee Hunter informed the Board that Jill Cook, Principal of Alert Bay School, would be presenting at the upcoming BCSTA AGM. Trustee Hunter stated how much he enjoyed the Marumba band performance at the VISTA conference.

Trustee Garrett shared his enjoyment of the Enhancement Agreement signing ceremony and the Minister’s visit to AJ Elliott school. Trustee Garrett expressed his concern that some marginal students may not return to school the second semester because of job action.

Chairperson Wishart stated that the Enhancement Agreement signing ceremony was a highlight of his career as trustee. He also stated that he went “paperless” for this meeting and it worked well for him.

**DPAC
REPRESENTATIVE**

DPAC Chair Penny Mills reported that the next DPAC meeting was scheduled for March 26th at Eagle View Elementary School.

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

Local VINTA President, Fred Robertson informed the Board that VINTA members had joined teachers across the province in three days of withdrawal of services. Mr. Robertson stated his belief that Bill 22 was unconstitutional, undemocratic, and completely disrespectful to teachers. Mr. Robertson stated that the term “mediation” used in Bill 22 was a misnomer as the mediator will be appointed by the Minister and restricted by a mandate to strip language from the collective agreement. Mr. Robertson stated his belief that no settlement will be reached, that ultimately a contract will be legislated and that legislation will completely change the education system as we know it, for the worse.

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE**

CUPE Local 2045 President Joanne Welsh informed the Board that members ratified the memorandum of agreement with the School District at their meeting on Saturday, March 11th.

**ADJOURNMENT
27/12**

Schmidt
That the regular meeting of March 12, 2012 be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer