

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

March 9, 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 6:00 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, Chair

**RECOGNITION OF
TRADITIONAL
TERRITORIES**

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

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
24/15**

Hunter/Manke:
That the minutes of the February 16, 2015 meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

**ADDITIONS TO THE
AGENDA**

Two Field Trips
VISTA Report
Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce
Admin Funding Claw Back

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA
25/15**

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

CARRIED

**NIA
PRESENTATION**

North Island Administrators President Lauren Deadman asked for support for administrators in the form of a letter to the Provincial Government requesting that the freeze on wages for excluded staff be lifted.

**2015-2016 SCHOOL
CALENDAR**

Dr. Benwell presented an amended 2015-2016 school calendar that was developed in close consultation with VINTA that respects language in the Collective Agreement while following the requirements of the School Act. Amendments to the calendar include a final school day of June 24, 2016 and a two week Spring Break.

26/15

Manke/Skrlac:
That the amended 2015-2016 School Calendar be approved.

CARRIED

**DISBURSEMENTS:
FEBRUARY 2015
27/15**

Skrlac/Hunter:
That the February 2015 disbursement statements be approved.

CARRIED

- BUDGET** Secretary Treasurer John Martin reported that funding for the 2015-16 school year was expected to be announced March 12th. Senior Management will be setting the staffing budget soon and will be looking for clarity around Ministry requested administrative savings.
- SPED UPDATE** Assistant Superintendent Carol Robertson gave a brief presentation on “Tiny Eye”, the speech and language pathology delivery model now in place.
- ERASE** Ms. Robertson reported on the Violent Threat Risk Assessment training she attended in Campbell River. She also reported that the District is currently working with community partner groups to review and revise threat assessment protocols. She invited trustees to local threat assessment training when the time comes.
- VILLAGE ISLAND – NISS FIELD TRIP 28/15** Schmidt/Prescott:
That the NISS field trip request for grades 8-12 student to visit Village Island on May 22, 2015 be approved.
CARRIED
- CALVERT ISLAND – NISS FIELD TRIP 29/15** Skrlac/Hunter:
That the NISS field trip request for eleven Biology 11/12 students to travel to Calvert Island May 4-7, 2015 be approved providing there will be both a female and male chaperone on the trip.
CARRIED
- INDOOR CLIMBING – NISS FIELD TRIP 30/15** Skrlac/Hunter:
That the NISS field trip request for the Tourism 11/12 class to travel to Campbell River in March to participate in indoor climbing be approved.
CARRIED
- ADMINISTRATIVE SAVINGS 31/15** Trustee Manke expressed his concern that the Ministry is asking school districts to find \$54 million in administrative savings over the next two years. Trustee Manke suggested that those savings could have been realized if the Province had chosen to support openStudent, the student information system developed by Saanich School District, as the replacement for BCeSIS.
Manke/Prescott:
That the Board write a letter to the Minister and the Premier stating that the request to find \$54 million dollars in administrative savings is an unjust burden to all school district in the Province.
CARRIED
- TRUSTEE SHARING** Trustee Manke appreciated getting in to schools for a visit but would like to see more individualized school visits. He enjoyed the lunch at Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre.

Trustee Schmidt would like to spend more time in classrooms during school visits. She enjoyed the student involvement at Eke Me-Xi. She would also like to see students who participate in Board-approved field trips later present to the Board on their trip experience.

Trustee Hunter appreciated the contrast between the PHSS and Eke Me-Xi school visits.

Trustee Prescott agreed with Trustee Manke that she would like to see smaller groups of trustees visit classrooms during school visits. She became separated from the rest of the group during the morning visit to PHSS but thoroughly enjoyed classroom visits on her own.

Trustee Field participated in the District Pro D Day February 20th and enjoyed the keynote address as well as the workshop he attended. He thanked the VINTA Pro D team for putting on a quality day.

BCSTA

Trustee Hunter emailed trustees a link to motions that were passed at the BCSTA Provincial Council meeting.

FNEC

The next FNEC meeting is scheduled for March 10.

VISTA

Trustee Skrlac reported that the TRB information was brought to VISTA as requested by the Board. She would like to thank Parksville for doing such a wonderful job hosting the Spring Conference.

Skrlac/Prescott:

That the Board write a letter of appreciation to Parksville School District for a job well done hosting the VISTA Spring Conference.

CARRIED

**PORT MCNEILL
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

Trustee Skrlac reported on the Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce meeting she attended. She has full voting privileges at Port McNeill Chamber meetings as a SD85 representative. No trustee was opposed to her exercising those voting privileges.

**DPAC
REPRESENTATIVE**

There was no DPAC representative.

**VINTA
REPRESENTATIVE**

VINTA President Shawn Gough informed the Board that both the BCTF and VINTA give grants to support the annual Village Island field trip as it is such a worthwhile experience.

He shared his disappointment that the Board did not pass a motion to submit a needs budget.

He thanked Dr. Benwell and Mr. Martin for their work with VINTA in resolving the 2015-2016 school calendar grievance. Mr. Gough recognized that CUPE employees will pay a price for VINTA's proposal

of a two week spring break but hoped the Board can find funds to help compensate for lost wages.

**CUPE
REPRESENTATIVE**

CUPE 401 2nd Vice-President Joanne Welch expressed her surprise that the Ministry could have realized millions of dollars in savings by supporting openStudent as a replacement for BCeSIS.

She questioned the Board on the effects a two week Spring Break will have on CUPE members. Mr. Martin explained that shortened lunch hours will not affect noon hour supervisors, but that CUPE employees will have to take either vacation days or days without pay for the extra three days of leave time associated with the longer Spring Break.

**ADJOURNMENT
32/15**

Schmidt:

That the regular meeting of March 9, 2015 be adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson of the Board

Secretary-Treasurer